

Palestinian businessman held in Israeli jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian businessman from the Gaza Strip is being held in an Israeli jail, following his arrest on suspicion of helping Islamist militant suicide bombers infiltrate into Israel, public television reported Thursday. Kamal Hamad, reported to have been arrested several weeks ago, is suspected of being a member of Islamist Jihad — a militant group committed to violent struggle against Israel. The businessman, who possessed a permit allowing him to move freely between the Palestinian territories and Israel, is alleged to have transported potential suicide bombers and explosives in his car. The television said he was being held in a special section of Ashkelon prison in southern Israel run by the internal security agency, Shin Bet.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 22 Number 6574

AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1997, SAFAR 28, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

Israeli helicopters attack Palestinians in Lebanon

NAAME, Lebanon (AFP) — Israeli helicopters Thursday launched a missile attack on positions of a Palestinian group south of Beirut, injuring four of members of the organisation, police said. Two helicopters, escorted by warplanes, fired six missiles at the stronghold of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC) at Naame, around 20 kilometres south of Beirut, said the sources. They said four PFLP-GC militants were injured, one seriously, and that one of the organisation's political leaders, known as Abu Jaraj, was among the casualties. Earlier Lebanese police reported that it was the warplanes that launched the attack on Naame. PFLP-GC fighters set up a cordon around their positions at Naame and refused to make any comment to reporters after the attack.

Palestinian deaf-mute wounded by Israeli dies

GAZA (AFP) — A deaf and dumb Palestinian boy wounded by Israeli soldiers two weeks ago died on Thursday, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Ibrahim Tawfiq Abu Ruteina, 12, was shot in the head June 22 by soldiers guarding the Israeli Moutz settlement near Rafah, in Gaza autonomous region. He died at Gaza's Shifa Hospital. The victim had not heard warning shots or shouted warnings from soldiers as he walked along a path on territory disputed between Palestinians and Israelis. There have been clashes for several weeks in the sector in the south of the Gaza Strip between Palestinians and Israeli settlers or troops.

Hamas commando escapes from PNA jail

HEBRON (AFP) — A member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) accused of anti-Israeli attacks that left 11 people dead has escaped from a Palestinian prison here, sources said Thursday. Ibrahim Ghanimat, 35, escaped during the last 24 hours in circumstances which remain unclear, according to the sources. Palestinian security forces have begun a search. Ghanimat was arrested by Palestinian police in April after a Hamas cell was dismantled in the village of Surif near the West Bank town of Hebron. Three alleged members of the group are being held by Israel.

Iran attracts 600,000 tourists per year

TEHRAN (AFP) — Some 600,000 foreign tourists visited Iran in 1996, generating \$300 million for the Islamic republic, Deputy Culture Minister Hussein Taheri said Friday. Mr. Taheri, who is responsible for tourism, told the official news agency, IRNA, the figure should rise to \$700 million in the next two years. He said 97 hotels of three to five stars and 90 motels were being built to cope with rising tourism figures. Iran attracted 450,000 tourists in 1995 and earned \$250 million. Despite its attractions, such as the ruins of Persepolis and the historic cities of Estahban and Shiraz, the country was practically wiped from the tourism map after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

30,000 Palestinians march in Nablus, 12 injured in Hebron

Combined agency dispatches

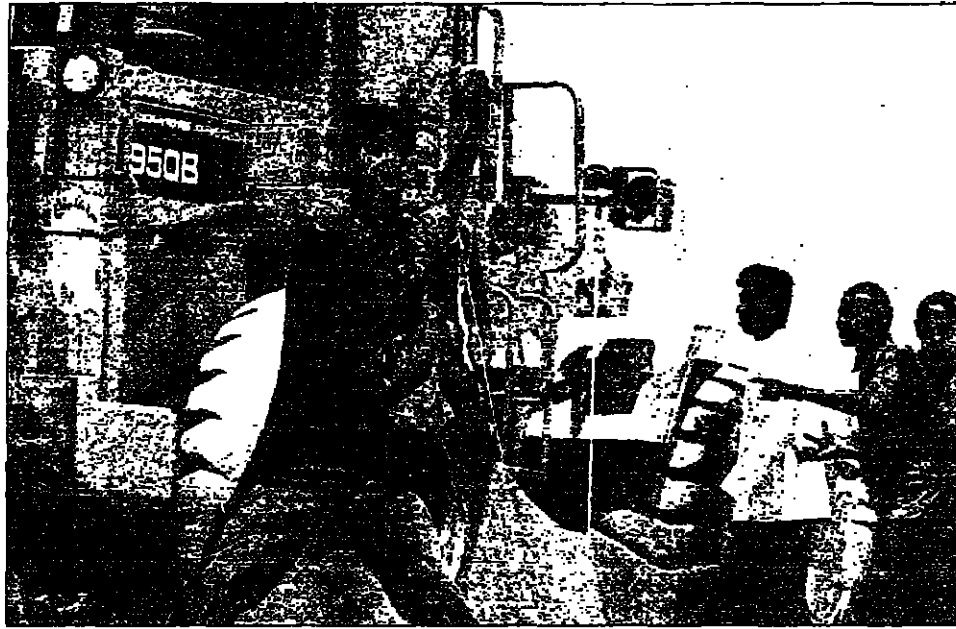
INCENSED BY an anti-Muslim leaflet, Palestinians threw stones and firebombs Friday at Israeli troops in Hebron and some 30,000 demonstrators called for deadly revenge against Israel during a rally in the West Bank town of Nablus. The march was called by Hamas to protest against the leaflet that was distributed by a Jewish extremist in Hebron last week.

"We knock on heaven's door with the skulls of the Jews," read the banner carried by those in the front line of the march.

The Hamas leader in Nablus, Sheikh Jamal Mansour, said there would be a new uprising and more suicide bombings in Israel to avenge what he said was "the humiliation of our prophet."

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 12 Palestinians, one seriously, when they opened fire on young stone-throwers in the West Bank town of Hebron Friday after warning they would get tough on protesters. One of the Palestinians was seriously injured when he was hit in the head by a rubber-coated bullet. Another was shot in the leg by a real bullet, witnesses said.

Palestinian protesters threw petrol bombs and two home-made explosives at Israeli troops guarding Jewish enclaves in the divided



Palestinian Maher Abdel Menem Assar, 18, throws a stone at Israeli forces before he was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier with a bullet to the heart as clashes erupted with protesters, 02 July outside the Gush Katif bloc of Jewish settlements near the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Deir al-Balah (AFP Photo)

town but caused no injuries, witnesses said.

Members of President Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement tried to calm the situation down by pushing Palestinians back from settlers' homes and army positions. Jewish settlers, meanwhile, climbed on rooftops in their heavily-guarded enclaves in the heart of the flash point town to rain stones on the Palestinian demonstrators.

The army was on high alert ahead of Muslim prayers Friday, deploying sharpshooters and special units in the town and sealing off the Palestinian-con-

trolled sector to outsiders. The Israeli commander of the region, General Uzi Dayan, told army radio that "tension is extremely high in Hebron."

"We will use a vast array of operational measures to

(Continued on page 3)

Israeli general threatens to kill Palestinians

HEBRON (AFP) — An Israeli general threatened Friday to kill any Palestinian demonstrator who throws gasoline or pipe bombs at his troops in this divided town. "Those who throw explosive devices to kill must understand that they will die, because those are the shooting orders," the commander of Israeli forces in the West Bank, General Gabi Ofir, said in a radio interview. The general called on the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to intervene to restore calm, "if not, the price could be heavy." "We have sufficient forces and endurance in Hebron to confront any disorder," General Ofir added.

Palestinian court condemns 3 'Force 17' officers to death

GAZA (R) — A PNA military court on Thursday sentenced three Palestinian officers to death by firing squad over the killing of a Gaza man held in custody by an elite unit that guards Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Arafat must approve the death sentence.

It was the first time a military court had imposed the death penalty on Palestinian security officers for killing a civilian in detention.

Major Fathi Freihat and two other Force 17 members, Mahmoud Zayyid and Wael Ghanem, were accused of causing the death last month of Nasser Radwan, 28, a killing which the charge

sheet said "incited the masses" against the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"The accused are convicted of the charges and sentenced to death by firing squad," said Colonel Ismail Shaf'i, who headed the special military court that tried the officers.

Three other Force 17 men arrested after Radwan was beaten unconscious in Gaza last month received jail sentences in the same proceedings.

Two were sentenced to five years in jail, another was given a six-month term and two were acquitted.

Palestinian officials said the security men had illegally arrested Radwan for

allegedly harassing the wife of one of them.

It was the tenth death sentence handed down by a Palestinian court since the PNA took charge of parts of Gaza and the West Bank in 1994 under a self-rule deal with Israel. None of the death sentences has been implemented.

Spectators in court said Radwan's relatives broke into cheers of "long live justice" when the judge read the sentence.

The PNA had been under fire from human rights organisations for alleged violations. The groups said at least 14 Palestinians have died in custody since the start of self-rule.

Egypt bans import of beef from Belgium

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has banned the import of beef from Belgium after reports that 1,600 tonnes of British beef had been exported, with Belgian help, to the Netherlands, Russia and Egypt despite a ban imposed because of the mad cow disease crisis.

A Ministry of Supply and Trade statement published Friday said the ban was effective immediately in response to the European Commission announcement.

The commission said Thursday that the beef had been exported illegally. Chief spokesman Nikolaus Van Der Pas said the beef was "fraudulently declared to be of Belgian origin."

He said 700 tonnes had been seized by Dutch authorities and the remaining 900 tonnes had probably been exported to Russia and Egypt.

There were no figures for Belgian beef exports to Egypt. The Belgian embassy was closed Friday.

Al Akhbar newspaper said Supply and Trade Minister Ahmed Gueily also ordered steps intended to ensure that beef in Egyptian markets was free from disease.

Egypt has aimed in the past to prevent the incidence of so-called mad cow disease, or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

It banned imports in January of Irish cattle ready for slaughter in January. Ireland's Agriculture Ministry said in June that Egypt had agreed to resume imports.

Prince Hassan says the world should drop 'stick & carrot' politics for sake of humanity

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

GENEVA — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Friday made a one-day visit here during which he attended and addressed a working group on world refugees emphasising the need to focus on anthropologies which should have precedence over the politics of national interest.

"The international community should look for an alternative to the politics of the 'stick and carrot' and negative 'conditionality' should not be allowed to hamper progress in the humanitarian field," the Crown Prince told the 4th meeting of the informal advisory group of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Prince Hassan said that while he recognised that "the priorities of the world in which we live focus on

solving problems politically, as we have seen in the context of Iraq and Palestine, the political solutions are not sufficient without a humanitarian content."

He said that he hoped that discussions during the 50th anniversary of the declaration of human rights would not deteriorate into a "political discussion" over human rights standards as applied in the West, but rather look at the "totality of human issues: refugees, disappeared (persons), victims of torture... (victims) of national disasters... and develop an overarching statement of an ethical human solidarity in the General Assembly of the U.N."

For such a humanitarian order to take shape, the Crown Prince reiterated his conviction that global, regional and internal security depend on the concept of "soft security," the needs of

the man in the street, and not on "hard security" that is manifested in the accumulation of arms and means of deterrence.

He gave an example of the acquisition of arms in the Middle East since the Gulf war accounted for \$300 billion, while the region's total need for a viable infrastructure needs stood at \$35 billion. "Security cannot be dictated by arms or the policies of fat accomplishment, but rather by a precise definition that takes into consideration that security is in the minds and hearts of people."

During Friday's meeting that was attended by seven renowned refugee rights advocates in addition to the Crown Prince, he reiterated the Jordanian position over the future of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.

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Second Jordanian arrested for posting anti-Israeli signs

Mjali says Arabs are Semites, no such thing as anti-Semitism in law

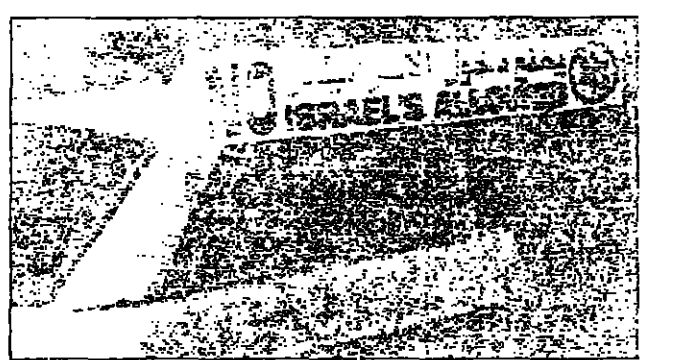
By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Preventive police on Thursday arrested a 32-year-old Jordanian who hung a sticker on his shop window that banning Israelis from entering his shop, the second citizen to be arrested for the same charge in four days.

The arrest of Majed Hattar followed a war of words with police agents who came to his shop in Jabal Weibdeh and asked him to remove the sticker and accompany them to a police centre for interrogation.

Mr. Hattar refused to accompany them and demanded they produce an official arrest warrant. He also refused to remove the sticker.

More police agents arrived at the scene and asked reporters and cameramen to vacate the place. They later on arrested Mr. Hattar, removed the sticker which reads "No Israel's allowed" (meaning no



Sign posted on the window of Majed Hattar's shop banning Israelis from entering (Photo by Yousef Allam)

Israelis allowed) and sealed off the shop.

"If there is democracy in this country, nobody is allowed to prevent me from posting this sticker. It is my right to express my anger against the Israelis and my refusal to deal with them and to prevent them from entering my shop," Mr. Hattar told the Jordan Times one hour before he was arrested.

"We as Jordanian people reject dealing with the

Israelis in any form. The mere existence of Israelis in Jordan, who stained its soil, make us reject any dealing with them. And the least thing I can do is to post this sticker in my shop," Mr. Hattar added.

"My action is not against the Jews. The Jews are scattered everywhere. But my action is targeted against the Israelis who occupy our lands, who kill our children

(Continued on page 2)

Women demand amending laws to establish equality

ZARQA (J.T.) — Jordanian women stressed the need for amending a number of controversial laws, at workshops held across the nation.

The workshops were organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Al Kutba Institute for Human Development in cooperation with the General Federation for Jordanian Women (GFJW).

The four workshops held in Aqaba, Mafrqa, Irbid and Zarqa came out with a total of 42 demands in four separate agendas which were debated and voted in to forward to an upcoming national convention to be held in Amman in September.

"The demands made at the four workshops will be merged into a comprehensive women's agenda which will be discussed with women

from all parts of the country at a convention to be held in the midst of September," Salem-Pickartz told the Jordan Times.

During the four workshops, the workshop participants' most frequent demands were to amend the national law, divorce clauses of the personal status law, the election law, medical insurance law, to establish a constitutional court and to set a quota for women in parliament and public office.

The workshops were structured where the first two days were dedicated to giving the participants an overview of democracy, the current women's rights status and obstacles standing in the way of furthering their rights. The last day of the workshop was allocated for instruction on

practical methods and solutions in order to overcome obstacles.

"The two main ideas behind the workshop are participation and empowerment," said Josie Salem-Pickartz, explaining that the workshop was structured around women's needs and that empowerment was achieved through ensuring that the participants "take something home with them" to think and act on.

The workshop speakers were Ellen Khouri, Deputy Tounjan Faisal, '89 and '93 elections candidate Nadia Bushnaq, women's issues researcher Khadija Habashneh, Abu Ali and Jordan Times political editor Ramzi E. Khouri.

(Continued on page 2)

Arabs call for U.N. General Assembly emergency session

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Arab Group on Thursday officially called for an emergency special session of the U.N. General Assembly on Israel's refusal to halt settlement construction in the occupied territories.

Egyptian ambassador to the United Nations, Nabil Elaraby, sent a letter to U.N. General Assembly President Razali Ismail requesting the resumption of an emergency special session which was "temporarily adjourned" following adoption of a resolution on April 25 concerning Israeli settlements.

Mr. Elaraby told AFP that a date for the special session was expected to be set early next week following

consultations with Mr. Razali, who was in Geneva on Thursday. But it was likely that the session would take place on July 14 or 15.

Mr. Elaraby chairs the Arab group for the month of July, and also wrote to Mr. Razali on behalf of the Arab League states.

The letter requested the session's resumption in the light of a report to the 185-nation General Assembly by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, who was asked to monitor the April 25 resolution's implementation.

The resolution notably called for the immediate cessation of construction of a Jewish settlement in the Jabal Abu Ghneim sector of Arab east Jerusalem as

well as "all other settlement activities."

Mr. Annan, in his report issued last week, confirmed that the Israeli government "has not abandoned its construction of a new Israeli settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim."

He also said that settlement activity "continued unabated throughout the occupied territories."

Mr. Annan had planned to send the U.N. Undersecretary General for political affairs, Sir Kieran Prendergast, to verify Israel's compliance with the resolution.

But he was forced to call off the mission because of Israeli conditions which

(Continued on page 2)

JEDCO announces annual exhibition programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Friday announced a programme detailing Jordanian participation in international exhibitions and fairs to be held abroad this year.

According to a JEDCO statement, teams are preparing for Jordan's first industrial exhibition in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi to be organised between August 11 and 15.

The decision to hold the exhibition in Nairobi followed a study of that country's markets, demonstrating that opportunities exist for marketing medical and veterinary products and fertilisers, electrical and home appliances and consumer goods in Kenya.

JEDCO has also completed preparations for participation in an August 23-27 Frankfurt exhibition to display traditional crafts and Dead Sea

minerals, according to the statement. The German Development Agency is supporting Jordan in this endeavour, it added.

Jordan will also join the 44th Damascus International Fair to be held between August 28 and September 10 in order to promote Jordanian products in Syrian markets and strengthen Jordanian-Syrian economic and trade links.

JEDCO will also participate in an international fair to be held in Bosnia from October 1 to 7 to orient Bosnians on Jordanian industrial products and establish links between Jordanian and Bosnian business communities.

Jordan will also take part in an international fair to be held in Muscat, Oman between October 27 and 31 where it will display industrial commodities as well as in an international fair in Rome between

August 23 and 27 at which time it will display agricultural products.

JEDCO is preparing for a Jordanian week to be held in the U.S. city of Detroit between October 20 and 23, under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

The Detroit event will offer a chance for the promotion of Jordanian industrial products as well as the marketing of tourist attractions in the United States, according to JEDCO.

It will also provide an opportunity for Jordanian entrepreneurs to meet their American counterparts and describe the current Jordanian investment climate, the statement said.

In Detroit, several Jordanian folklore troupes will perform and officials will be distributing brochures detailing Jordan's tourist attractions.

Kingdom submits list of 58 water projects to World Bank

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom last week submitted a list of 58 water sector projects to the World Bank following extensive negotiations with the bank's team in Amman, according to a report prepared by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Friday.

The report, provided to the Jordan Times, was one of several submitted by Jordan to the World Bank to improve water resources over the next 17 years, Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin affirmed.

Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times that the submission of these reports would enhance the Kingdom's quest for international financing and technical help for water projects.

The 13-page report demonstrates that Jordan has proposed JD 71 million worth of projects in the form of feasibility, design and assessment studies for water and waste water projects.

Among the major water projects, the report included JD 53 million in water rehabilitation undertakings in several cities, the construction of a Disi-Amman conveyer at a cost of JD 420 million, and future projects such as ground water reduction programme at an estimated cost of JD 250 million.

The report also included a JD 240 million project for municipal water net-

work rehabilitation in several cities: the first phase of the Amman municipal water network rehabilitation project has been calculated at JD 151 million. The above-mentioned 58 water projects, with total costs running to JD 3.447 billion, will bring the Kingdom an additional 676 mcm of water from 1997 to 2010. The financing has not yet been secured for the majority of these projects.

The largest project proposed by the ministry was the Disi-Amman conveyer, consisting of 31 kilometres of pipeline, 100 wells, reservoirs and four pumping stations to transport 120 mcm of water annually from the Disi aquifer to Amman and the southern governorates at a total cost of JD 420 million.

The municipal water network rehabilitation project involves repairing pipelines, distribution networks, home connections, reservoirs and pumping stations in towns and villages.

The project has been sub-divided into three sections covering the north, centre, and south of the country with costs expected to reach JD 240 million.

The JD 104 million project at Mujid Weir, the conveyer and southern Jordan Valley infrastructure project, aims at diverting the flood flows of Wadi Mujid via a diversion at Weir and a conveyer system for industrial and municipal uses as well as irrigation.

A further component of this project will be the installation of an irrigation infrastructure in southern Jordan Valley. The JD 40 million desalination project at Aqaba consists of the construction of a desalination plant at the Gulf of Aqaba to desalinate about 20 mcm per year of sea water for municipal, industrial and tourist uses.

These "peace projects" will enable the Kingdom to obtain an additional 206 mcm of water.

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Higher committee to discuss gas supplies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, convening in Cairo today under the co-chairmanship of both countries' prime ministers, is expected to discuss Egyptian gas supplies to the Kingdom, according to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Hosni.

The local press Friday quoted the minister as stating that a joint technical team has finalised a project study entailing the construction of a 270-kilometre pipeline from Suez in Egypt to Aqaba in Jordan.

This pipeline will initially transport 200 million cubic feet of natural gas daily from the year 2001, to be gradually increased to a quotidian amount of 400 million cubic feet.

According to Mr. Hosni, the higher com-

mittee discussed the project last year and tentative agreement was reached on its implementation.

Jordan requires approximately 500,000 tonnes of gas annually, currently imported from Iraq, he added.

The gas imported from Egypt will be used to produce electricity in Aqaba for growing industries and will help transform the port city into a free zone.

During the Cairo meetings, the higher committee will examine a final draft of the gas agreement and sign documents to commence linkage of electric networks between Egypt and Jordan, according to the minister.

This project has been financed by the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development as part of a power linkage project also including Syria, Iraq and Turkey, he concluded.

Man threatens family with M-16 rifle

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 37-year old man, who Wednesday barricaded his family for seven hours with an M-16 rifle and then threatened to kill himself, will be transferred to court today, police said Friday.

The suspect, who was not identified by authorities, threatened his family with the rifle at approximately 2:00 a.m., following an argument with his brother.

"The man, under the influence of alcohol, sprayed the house walls with gunfire," a police official told the Jordan Times Friday. "He then threatened to kill himself, if anyone approached him."

A special police force cordoned off the man's house near the fourth circle, while sharpshooters wearing bullet-proof vests surrounded the area in preparation for any possible retaliation.

According to the police official, the man gave up his unlicensed rifle and two bullet magazines at around 9:00 a.m. after intensive negotiations with a special police force.

"Our agents convinced him to surrender his firearm," the police official maintained.

The official said that the man is being questioned as to where he obtained an M-16 rifle.

Possession of firearms such as M-16 automatic weapons is illegal in Jordan, he added.

According to the police official, the suspect has undergone police questioning and will be transferred to the criminal prosecutor for further queries.

Jordanian-American medical conference to convene in Amman this month

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-American medical conference is scheduled to convene here on July 26 and attract over 400 American physicians and specialists, according to head of the preparatory executive committee, Dr. Naveed Abdullah Suleiman.

Dr. Suleiman Friday explained that the conference, organised by the American College of Doctors in conjunction with the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), will be attended by hundreds of Jordanian doctors.

The participants are to review 110 reports in 10 days, covering a wide range of medical topics from diabetes to heart disease, Dr. Suleiman explained.

He also noted that participants will hold a seminar focusing on maternal health, another on continuing medical education as well as

opportunities for Jordanian doctors, specialising in U.S. medical centres and institutions.

According to Dr. Suleiman, the upcoming event presents a real opportunity for Jordanian physicians and specialists to benefit from modern medical techniques through those lectures and research papers presented by their American colleagues.

While American participants in the conference will pay a participatory fee of \$600, Jordanian specialists will pay only JD 30 and general practitioners JD 10, Dr. Suleiman confirmed.

A concurrent medical exhibition will be displayed at the Radisson SAS Hotel where conference deliberations will also be convening, he concluded.

European official begins visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Member of European Parliament (EP) Magda Aelvoet arrives here today on a five-day working visit to review aspects of European Union-Jordan cooperation, a European Community statement said.

In her capacity as rapporteur of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy at European Parliament, Ms. Aelvoet will meet with Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Fayez Tarawneh and Minister of Planning Dr. Rima Khalaf.

Her programme also includes meetings with the Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the Contractors' Union, the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Jordanian Women's Federation.

Ms. Aelvoet will be accompanied by a member of the EP Secretariat and an official from the Green Group Party, of which she is president, the statement concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Photography exhibition by Jan Kassar, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 25.

Exhibition of Korean products at the Amman International Market Show, until July 7.

Paintings by Ali Al Ghoul at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

Silver Jewellery exhibition at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

Karim Rasim's works at the Orient Gallery, until July 10.

Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment" in Iraq Art at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition, showing works of 60 Arab artists, at Darat Al Foun, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 24.

Palestinians march in Nablus

(Continued from page 1)

"maintain order as the needs arise," he said. Israel warned Thursday it would take tougher action after three weeks of bloody clashes in which 220 Palestinian protesters have been wounded.

Soldiers from an elite Israeli army unit disguised themselves as demonstrators Thursday and pounced on at least four young Palestinians, beating and arresting them, witnesses said.

The army also threatened to seal off the town, preventing Palestinians from getting to their jobs inside Israel and limiting the movement of goods. Despite the threats, the

Palestinian police chief in Hebron, General Tariq Zeid, said his force would not intervene to restore calm. "There is no reason why Palestinian police should suppress street protests," General Zeid told Israel army radio.

Tensions in Hebron, already high due to the three-month freeze in the peace process, were ratcheted up at the weekend when a Jewish woman plastered Arab shops with anti-Islam posters. The violence was in danger of spilling over to the town of Nablus, also on the West Bank, where Islamic organisations organised a march to the Jewish religious site of Joseph's Tomb to protest

"insults against the prophet."

The Israeli army banned Jews Friday from visiting the tomb, the site of pitched battles between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police last September in which a dozen people died. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai acknowledged at the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem Friday that the posters "are the cause for the upsurge in tension in Hebron, when the situation was growing noticeably calmer beforehand."

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu renewed accusations that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was stirring up the violence to put pressure on Israel at the negotiating table. He said President Arafat "has not done anything to prevent

the Hebron violence and has encouraged it in the Gaza Strip."

"Israel is not ready to accept street violence running in parallel with political negotiations, and we have sent very strong messages on this subject to the Palestinian authority," he said.

Mr. Arafat denied that his self-rule authority was to blame for three weeks of clashes between protesters and Israeli troops in the divided West Bank city of Hebron.

"These accusations are false ... it is the Israelis who do not respect signed agreements," Mr. Arafat told reporters late Thursday after talks with the EU envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Angel Moratinos.

Majali affirms confidence in U.S. peace process role

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday stated his belief that the United States would develop an initiative to end the present deadlock in peace negotiations.

Upon his return to Amman from a visit to Bahrain, the prime minister affirmed that the United States is a self-avowed partner in the peace process and that it is determined to stimulate momentum therein.

Peace is an international strategic option and not a mere regional issue, Dr. Majali asserted.

Jordan is also confident that the Europeans will conceive of their own initiatives to salvage the peace process and that Arab countries, led by Egypt, will also contribute to the eventual success of the peace process, he said.

Talks in Bahrain covered Jordanian-Bahraini relations, pan-Arab affairs and the peace process, according to Dr. Majali.

Bilateral talks focused on economic and trade ties, the prospect of establishing a Jordanian-Bahraini bank to increase trade exchanges and the prospect of establishing direct land, sea and air routes between the two nations, he explained.

The prime minister confirmed that he also discussed the prospect of a Bahraini company directing oil and gas prospecting in Jordan.

Talks with Bahraini leaders also focused on the cessation of differences among Arab nations, he added.

In reference to a recent incident of Jewish settlers placing posters in Hebron insulting the Prophet Mohammad, the prime minister expressed condemnation and charged that such divisive actions reflect acts of "desperate and defeatist elements."

While in Bahrain, Dr. Majali informed a press conference that current Israeli policies in the Middle East peace

process are unacceptable to Jordan and must be changed.

The prime minister criticised the vision of the Israeli leadership, based, he said, on the establishment of peace without returning land. These policies contravene global public opinion, he stated.

The Middle East and North African Economic Summit (MENA), due to be held in the Qatari capital of Doha, falls within the context of multilateral peace talks in which Jordan has played an active role, Dr. Majali said.

Through its participation in bilateral and multilateral talks, Jordan has been able to restore all of its rights as stipulated in the 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, according to the premier.

Regarding the U.S. allocation of \$100 million in aid to Jordan, Dr. Majali stated that the Kingdom did not request that the United States decrease any financial

allocations to any country, whether Israel or Egypt. He emphasised Jordan's eagerness to ensure maximum support for Egypt.

The aid allocation was endorsed by the U.S. Congress as the U.S. administration felt that it did not give Jordan sufficient economic support for its role in the Middle East peace process, according to the premier.

In terms of press freedoms, the prime minister stated that there are no ceilings thereto.

"The sky and radio waves are the [only] press ceilings," he said. However, he stated that these freedoms should not inflict harm on individuals.

The analysis and critiques of policies of the Jordanian government or any other is permitted," Dr. Majali concluded, adding that new amendments to the Press and Publications Law do not forbid such.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry official reports on Cairo visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Secretary General Sattam Ma'aytah Friday returned home from Cairo after participating in meetings of a Jordanian-Egyptian committee, preparing for the Joint Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee which is to meet in Cairo today. In an arrival statement, Mr. Ma'aytah affirmed that the two sides signed a draft agreement covering the exchange of postal transfers between the two countries, under which the transfer amount will be raised from JD 10 to \$100.

Students claim art prizes

NEW DELHI (Petra) — Four Jordanian students from the National Orthodox School in Amman have won international awards for their entries in an international drawing competition, organised by the New Delhi-based Shenkar International Corporation for Children's Artwork. The winners are Alia Bisharat, Dima Bairakdar, Rita Nabil Amari and Noor Ahmad Shahbender. Shenkar Corporation has already delivered the awards to the Jordanian embassy here for delivery to the winners.

IPA to hold training courses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) will today hold two training programmes on higher and basic management for senior and medium-level civil servants. Over a period of two weeks, trainees in the Higher Management Programme will receive instruction on such topics as relations between the three executive authorities, civil service regulation, computer skills, strategic decisions, communication and analysis, crisis and stress management, strategic management and management excellence. Trainees in the second programme will learn about administrative concepts, accounting, work ethics, general policies, facilitation of procedures, government accounting and audit and preparation of memorandums and reports.

Department collects JD 31,857,679

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land and Surveys Department has collected JD 31,857,679 in fees from land registration and parcelation transactions during the first six months of this year, according to department sources. The sources tallied total revenues for June alone at JD 7,738,564.

China starts to disband Hong Kong handover institutions

HONG KONG (R) — Beijing has begun to dismantle the institutions that it set up to steer Hong Kong into Chinese rule.

Analysts said the moves indicated the Chinese Communist government was moving quickly to give the new Hong Kong administration a free hand to run the ex-British colony, which reverted to China Tuesday, as a quasi-autonomous region.

China's parliament Thursday approved a decision to disband a 150-member Preparatory Committee, charged with setting up the territory's post-colonial political structure.

The Preparatory Committee, comprising Chinese Communist officials and Hong Kong notables, chose a 400-member caucus that picked Hong Kong's new leader Tung Chee-hwa and a controversial provisional legislature last December.

The interim legislature set up by the Selection Committee replaced the Legislative Council, elected under British rule in 1995, on July 1.

The Preparatory Committee, tightly controlled by Beijing, has been a controversial force in Hong Kong political life, laying down rules for many aspects of the sovereignty change.

Thursday night's announcement did not make clear when the decision to disband the body would take effect.

At the same time, China signalled it was downgrading the role of its Xinhua News Agency branch, Bei-

Landslides from torrential rains still threaten H. Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Landslides caused by torrential rains plagued Hong Kong Friday as schools closed for a second day due to appalling weather since its return to Chinese rule.

More than 130 landslides were reported throughout Hong Kong since the daily deluge began Monday, the last day of British rule in the territory, blocking highways and causing long traffic jams and queues for ferries, government officials said.

They also warned more landslides are possible from the almost non-stop downpours.

No casualties were reported Friday, but rescue work resumed to find a missing elderly woman, believed to be buried in a landslide.

A small excavator was airlifted by helicopter to the site where a stone hut stood on the hillside of Sha Tin. The landslide also knocked down the wall of a temple there.

Some 50 people were called in to search for the 70-year-old woman who had been reported missing by relatives since Wednesday.

The search and rescue work was earlier temporarily suspended due to fears of further landslides.

Andrew Malone of the Geotechnical Engineering Office told reporters that the damage from the latest landslides was "light."

"If it hit a major populated area, it could have been worse," he said.

China's official Hong Kong mission and watchdog.

Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of Xinhua here, said his task as China's official spokesman in Hong Kong had been completed following the handover.

The Xinhua mission has in some ways acted as a shadow government and critic of the colonial administration, with Xinhua deputy directors tracking specific policy areas.

Mr. Zhang said Xinhua would not designate a new spokesman in Hong Kong affairs.

The independent Chinese-language daily Ming Pao

ment in Beijing.

Earlier this week Beijing also announced it was disbanding an advisory body made up of 186 Hong Kong personalities, mostly left-wing politicians, pro-China businessmen and grassroots activists, who had advised China on the transition since 1992.

"The move is to centralise the power of policy-making to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government," political analyst Sonny Lo told Reuters.

"If there are too many institutions, they may compete with Mr. Tung's government for influence," he said.

The 400-strong Selection Committee, exclusively comprising Hong Kong personalities noted for their pro-China patriotism, will now be the only handover institution that remains intact.

That body will fill any seats vacated in the provisional legislature, which is likely to sit for one year until elections are held.

China this week created a post-handover committee to oversee the implementation of Hong Kong's new constitution, the Basic Law, which allows the territory a high degree of autonomy in everything except defence and diplomacy, for the next 50 years.

The 12-member Basic Law Committee — six from Hong Kong and six from the mainland — took in leading provisional legislator Maria Tam, who must now be replaced by the Selection Committee.

said the move indicated changes to the role of Xinhua in Hong Kong and would help the smooth operation of Mr. Tung's government.

However, Xinhua's role would possibly be taken over by a new office of China's Foreign Ministry, inaugurated here Tuesday immediately after the handover.

The Foreign Ministry office will handle the territory's external affairs — one of the few areas in which Hong Kong will not enjoy self-rule — and serve as a channel of communication with the central govern-

after the Taliban ousted him from Kabul last September.

But a Masood spokesman denied the claim.

The aid worker said Mr. Masood's forces had overall control of the province.

He said the Taliban forces were also involved in heavy fighting with Mr. Masood's forces in Khanabad district in southeastern Kunduz where their supply line was considered fragile.

Several civilians were wounded in air raids by anti-Taliban forces in the centre of Kunduz City Wednesday, he said.

The Taliban have vowed to impose strict Islamic rule across Afghanistan, a goal which their ethnic minority opponents in the north see as concealing a drive for Pashtun hegemony.

The Taliban now control more than two thirds of the country.

A Pakistani peace emissary said Thursday the Afghan opposition alliance appears agreeable to the Taliban militia's ceasefire demands but the two sides remain at odds over achieving peace.

A senior Pakistani Foreign Ministry official, Ifkhar Mursheed, told reporters after talks with the warring sides that Islamabad would continue efforts towards peace talks.

He said he met the opposition representatives in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif Tuesday and had the impression that "they are agreeable to a ceasefire."

"They said 'if the other side stops fighting, we will also stop fighting'," Mr. Mursheed said.

He said a ceasefire and exchange of prisoners were preconditions set by the Taliban in a meeting with him on June 21 to meet opposition demands for a political commission to consider establishing a broad-based Afghan government.

But the opposition alliance seemed reluctant to release captured Taliban fighters, fearing they would return to warfare, Mr. Mursheed said.

However, the opposition agreed to consider a Pakistani suggestion to release, as a goodwill gesture, former Taliban Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammad Ghous and Central Bank chief Mullah Ahsanullah, Mursheed added.

The two were arrested in Mazar-i-Sharif by opposition leader General Abdul Malik's forces in late May.

The incident has only served to heighten tensions in Tirana where Albania's powerful President Sali Berisha continues to wield influence over parts of the police and various armed gangs linked to his Democratic Party.

Some suggest that Thursday's event involving King Leka is part of Mr. Berisha's game plan to maintain the instability and chaos that has plagued the Balkan republic for much of this year.

Violent anti-government protests split over into armed rebellion in March. Military barracks were plundered and an estimated one million weapons have found their way into the hands of criminal gangs and ordinary people.

The agency monitoring and supervising Albania's election, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), only concerned itself with the election. It did not monitor the referendum.

"We advised the Albanians not to hold the referendum at

the same time as the elections because of the confusions it would cause," said one OSCE official.

"If they choose to ignore our advice, that's not our problem. It's theirs. After all, it's their country," the official who requested anonymity said.

King Leka returned suddenly to Albania in April after spending most of his life in exile. He has many supporters in the north of Albania, as does Mr. Berisha, but few in the south.

Thursday's incident does not bode well for the immediate future stability of Albania.

Elections called in March by a weakened Berisha under pressure from the international community were intended to usher in a period of calm.

Instead they appear to have exacerbated divisions and opened up new ones with King Leka becoming a dangerous focal point for dissent despite appeal from senior Albanian officials for calm.



Jimmy and Gloria Stewart are shown in an undated photo. Stewart, who died Wednesday at his home from cardiac arrest, won one Academy Award and was nominated for four more during his career which spanned more than 80 movies. Gloria Stewart died in 1994 (Reuter photo)

Hollywood mourns loss of Jimmy Stewart

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hollywood was mourning one of its greatest stars Thursday — Jimmy Stewart, who portrayed a decent American "everyman" in many of his nearly 80 films.

Stewart died of a heart attack Wednesday at his home in Beverly Hills at the age of 89. He had been a virtual recluse since his wife, Gloria, died in 1994.

"I think Jimmy was ready to go," said actor Charlton Heston, who beat out Stewart for the best actor Academy Award in 1959.

Heston, who appeared with Stewart in *The Greatest Show On Earth*, said he felt "sad for myself and for the rest of the film community — indeed the whole film-going audience around the world."

The current president and an ex-president of the United States paid tribute to the gangly, slow-speaking star who was a real-life war hero off the screen and a reluctant hero on it.

President Clinton called Stewart "a national treasure" for his roles in such classics as *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and *It's A Wonderful Life*.

"Jimmy Stewart was a great actor, a gentleman, and a patriot," Mr. Clinton said in a statement. "We will always remember his rich career of great performances that spanned several decades and entertained generations of Americans."

Ex-President Ronald Reagan, a former actor who presented Stewart with a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985, mourned the loss of a "close, close friend."

"We shared so many of life's precious moments with him and with Gloria," Mr. Reagan and his wife, Nancy, said in a statement. "We'll miss him terribly, but we know they're happy to be together once again."

Stewart, who supported conservative causes, campaigned for Mr. Reagan in 1976 in his unsuccessful presidential campaign. The actor was also a "hawk" during the Vietnam War in which he lost his stepson, Ronald.

He was a decorated pilot in World War II, flying several bombing missions over Germany. One of his memorable performances was as band-leader Glenn Miller, who disappeared on a wartime flight across the English Channel.

Bob Hope, who entertained American troops in the war, called Stewart "every man's hero and every woman's dream man. He wasn't just a talent, but a genius and a friend."

"America has lost its role model. Jimmy represented the best in all of us in the characters he played. I love Jimmy for his humour and warmth and for his commitment to our country," said Hope.

Frank Sinatra called him "uniquely talented and a good friend."

Kim Novak, who played opposite Stewart in *Vertigo* and *Bell, Book And Candle*, said her feelings were "bittersweet."

"Bitter because there will never be another Jimmy Stewart. The sweet part is that he is free now. He had been ready for a long time to leave his body behind and move on."

Another co-star, Doris Day, from *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, said Stewart "did have a wonderful life. He was not only the consummate actor for me, but his great simplicity is what I think attracted everyone to him."

He is survived by his stepson, Michael McLean, and twin daughters Judy and Kelly, who asked that instead of flowers, donations be made to a Santa Monica hospital and an African wildlife fund.

Paris, Bonn seek to reassure on ties

BONN (R) — The French and German foreign ministers have insisted that the Bonn-Paris axis at the heart of European integration was in full working order, offering a broad mix of metaphors to back up their case.

Klaus Kinkel and his new counterpart Hubert Vedrine compared Franco-German ties to a bicycle trip, a marriage and — the old favourite — a motor, while sticking carefully to their standard lines on Europe's planned single currency.

They also presented a declaration on strengthening foreign policy cooperation including measures such as undertaking joint visits abroad, more intensive exchanges of information and more extensive use of electronic mail and video conferencing.

Mr. Vedrine, after meeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl, joined Mr. Kinkel for a cycling tour along the Rhine.

The ministers did not ride on a tandem but were at pains to stress that France and Germany were still working as a team, despite a widespread view that Bonn and Paris do not see eye to eye on issues like the single currency and employment policy.

"I think we have given you a good image. We cycled together in the same direction," said Mr. Vedrine, making his first visit to Bonn as a member of France's new Socialist-led government.

"Allow me to confirm and to emphasise that the Franco-German motor is not sputtering, far less is there a crisis in Franco-German relations," Mr. Kinkel later told a news conference.

"It's like a good marriage," he said. "In some matters, there are sometimes different views but the main thing is that the basic relationship continues on undisturbed."

The German minister said both countries wanted to meet the timetable for European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and the convergence criteria laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr. Vedrine said France was committed to making monetary union a reality, and to respecting the timetable.

Earlier Thursday, French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said in Paris that France's public deficit could be "significantly higher" than 3.0 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The treaty sets

down a ceiling of three per cent.

Mr. Kohl, the driving force behind the euro, has reiterated in the past few days that "three" per cent means 3.0 precisely.

Mr. Vedrine noted that the deficit criterion was just one of five criteria countries must meet to qualify for EMU and also pointed out that France's deficit had been consistently declining over the past few years.

The ministers also discussed next week's Madrid summit on NATO's eastward expansion. France favours taking in Slovenia and Romania along with three countries considered certain to be invited to join — Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Mr. Kinkel said no decision would be taken before Madrid. Germany has said it can live with five new members or just with the three — the option advocated by Washington.

The ministers took a Rhine cruise after their cycle tour but were forced to hang around on the riverbank, waiting for their delayed boat to arrive. No one dared offer any metaphor about not sticking to the EMU timetable.

Kohl hails excellent state of Moscow-Bonn relations

BERLIN (AFP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl Friday welcomed new friendship and close cooperation between Bonn and Moscow, at a conference discussing Russia's fledgling democracy.

"The German-Russian relationship is better than ever before in history," said Mr. Kohl, addressing the meeting which was attended by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"Germany and Russia see each other as partners who have drawn necessary conclusions from a bitter history."

Mr. Kohl noted that Germany had by far given the largest financial support to Russia by helping reschedule its debt, and giving loans and grants.

Trade volume surged over the last years to 27 billion marks (\$15 billion), he said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin went straight into the talks at Mr.

Herzog's Berlin residence after arriving in the city earlier Thursday on the start of a two-day visit.

The Russian premier and the German president also pointed to the joint efforts of Russian and Western peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, along with their allies and partners.

"Who could have predicted these developments only 10 years ago?" said Mr. Kohl.

European security issues involving NATO and the OSCE had also dominated talks between Mr. Chernomyrdin and German President Roman Herzog late Thursday when the two leaders underlined the necessity for Russia and the west to intensify dialogue concerning the alliance's expansion into Eastern Europe.

A total of 160 political, economic and cultural representatives from the two countries were expected to attend the conference, including the heads of the German industrial group Siemens and the Russian gas monopoly Gazprom.

EU leans towards talks with some applicants only

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The European Union (EU) should only open membership talks next year with Eastern European countries judged ready to join in the short-term, European Commission President Jacques Santer said Thursday.

His stand seemed to rule out the other option on the table — to open negotiations with all 10 Eastern European candidates and Cyprus in early 1998, but to conclude on different dates.

The commission — the EU executive — is set to unveil on July 16 individual assessments on each of the 10 eastern applicants, focusing on economic and political criteria determined by EU leaders.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria are all in the queue for EU membership, along with Cyprus which has already been judged suitable for membership.

"This examination will lead us inevitably to a differentiation between the different countries," Mr. Santer said after the commission met the government of Luxembourg, which took over the EU presidency on July 1.

will decide who to invite to talks, also seemed to want to limit the number of countries which will take part in the EU's next enlargement wave.

"We have to start negotiations with those who are ready," he said. "I do not rule out proceeding to an opening ceremony with all, but the breakaway (between the ready and not ready) should take place on the same day," he said.

The modest result of the EU's June 16-17 summit, where EU leaders failed to agree on the institutional changes necessary for a bloc with up to a dozen new members, makes it practically difficult to take in all candidates.

Tensions are rife in wake of Albanian elections

TIRANA (AFP) — Albania's elections appear to have caused more problems than they have solved, sparking disputes over the results and fights between winners and losers.

Held last Sunday, first round results have still not been released. Election officials say counting is complete but arguments and negotiations continue over how many seats will go to a second round.

However, everyone accepts that the Socialists emerged the strongest party while the former ruling Democrats have come a poor second.

This has led to considerable tension between the two rivals since unofficial tallies began to trickle in.

Realising they are going to have to relinquish control after five years in power the Democrats are fighting every inch of the way.

Not only has this produced tussles over the control of the armed forces and the Interior Ministry but infuriated international officials

who are helping the Albanians with the elections.

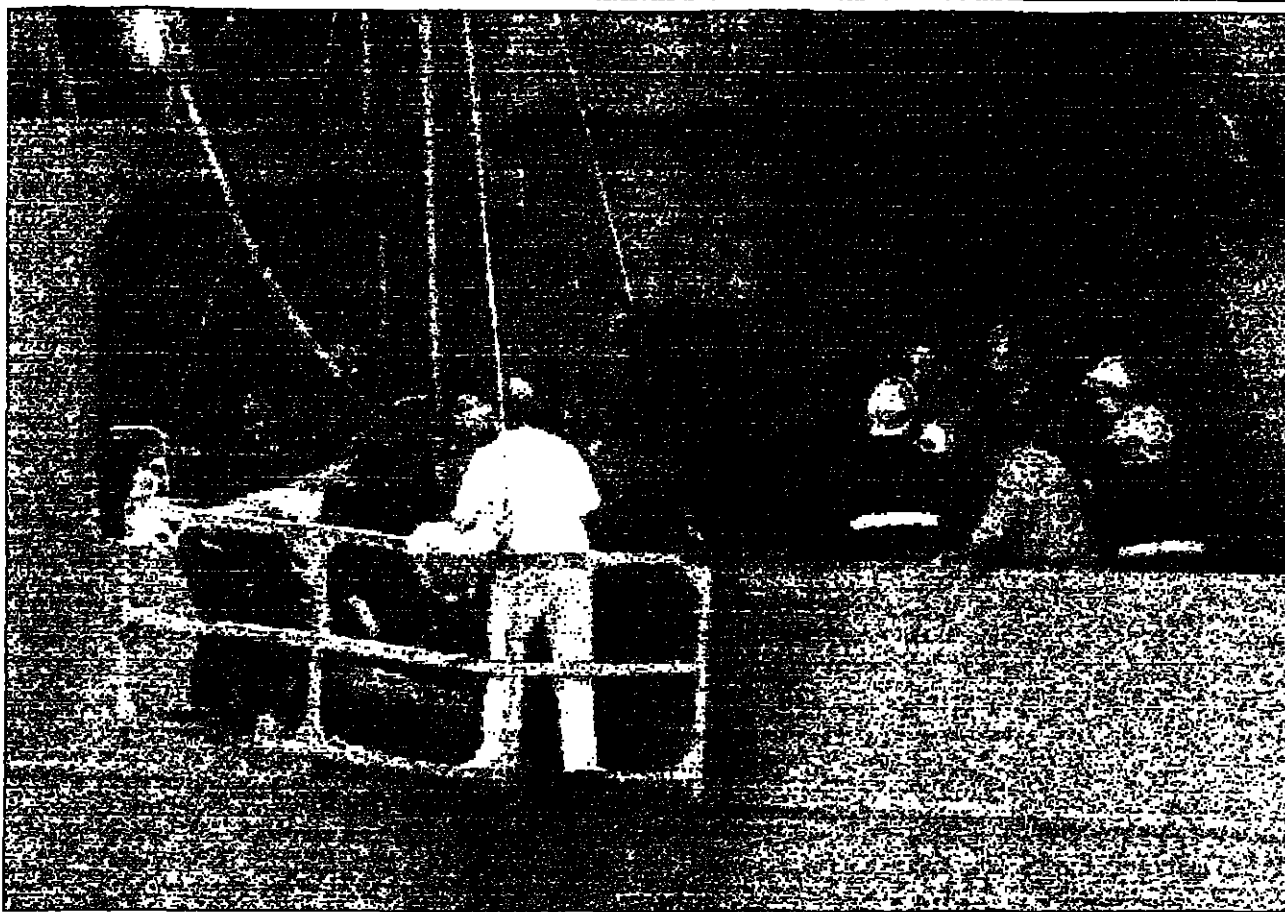
"It's pathetic. What we have here is basic political immaturity. The Albanians have not yet understood if you lose, you lose, but you survive to fight another day," one Western official said angrily.

Further muddying the waters is the result of a referendum held on the restoration of the monarchy alongside Sunday's elections.

Albania's self-proclaimed King Leka I has claimed that voters opted to reinstate the monarchy but that a plot by the Socialists has robbed him of the necessary 50 per cent plus result needed to change the country's constitution.

On Thursday, in a clearly premeditated action, King Leka led a group of armed and angry supporters to the building where officials were counting votes for the election and the referendum.

Heavy gunfire broke out for no apparent reason but the incident reportedly left one dead and several injured.



Rescue workers carry the body of a worker on a crane after a fiery explosion swept through a ship under construction in a Valencia shipyard Thursday. Nineteen people were reported killed in the explosion (Reuters photo)

Spain shipyard fire traps workers, kills 18

VALENCIA (R) — Eighteen people were killed and 10 were injured Thursday when an explosion and fire swept through a cargo ship under construction in a Valencia shipyard, trapping workers inside, police said.

Authorities said they believed a fuel leak in the engine room of the ship, named *Proof Spirit* and designed to carry chemicals, triggered the explosion, setting off a blaze that engulfed the lower decks.

Some workers, their faces blackened by the acrid smoke, fled in panic, escaping injury. But others were trapped inside the engine room and other sections of the ship, which was being

built in the Mediterranean port of Valencia.

Local media reported that when firemen entered the engine room, they found bodies piled on top of each other.

"I came up after I saw something breaking off the boat and all I could see was a cloud of smoke and a lot of fire and so we all ran out of the ship," one uninjured worker told reporters.

Survivors, their faces streaming with tears, stood helplessly as fire-fighters battled the blaze and searched for bodies.

Family members hugged each other and cried as waited for news about their loved ones. One woman, overcome

by grief, passed out as bodies were lifted by cranes to the dockside.

The Valencia government declared a period of mourning and promised a full investigation.

Although the fire was small, the rescue operation was complicated by the fact that the fire was in the lower half of the ship's hold.

Two firemen were injured trying to control the blaze. At least 10 workers were hurt, most suffering only slight injuries.

"There was a lot of confusion earlier, but now we can officially say that 18 were killed and some 10 were injured," a police spokesman said.

A spokesman for the shipbuilders said many of the victims died as a result of suffocation and smoke inhalation.

One former worker at the shipyard said he was not surprised by the disaster.

"I once worked there and I know how things were and it doesn't surprise me that something like this happened," he told state television.

The ship was being built for Norwegian company Jo Tankers. It was 110 metres long and 16 metres wide.

A port official said all 18 killed had been identified and came from four shipbuilding companies: Union Naval Levante, Inelca, Alfalvar and Inertank.

Yeltsin makes Karabakh conflict big priority

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said he had agreed with Paris and Washington to step up peacemaking efforts to end a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"I have agreed with the U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac that we will get together finally to find a way to make the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia sit at the negotiating table and sign an agreement or a treaty," Interfax News Agency quoted

him as saying after talks with Azeri President Haydar Aliyev in the Kremlin.

Mr. Yeltsin did not say when and where the talks would be held.

Last month, the three presidents, who met in the U.S. city of Denver at a summit of world leaders, urged the two sides to negotiate a settlement, proposing that Armenia recognise the enclave as part of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Yeltsin also said Russia would pay as much attention to Nagorno-Karabakh as it did to the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty

Organisation (NATO).

"Every day, the head of the Foreign Ministry will start with this problem (Karabakh)," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Tens of thousands died in a war between Armenians and Azeris in the late 1980s over Karabakh, which was mainly populated by Armenians despite being inside Azerbaijan.

Separatist Armenian forces still hold 20 per cent of Azeri territory. Shooting often breaks out on the borders despite a three-year-long truce.

Mr. Aliyev said his side

was happy to solve the conflict as soon as possible, but he wanted the negotiations to be based on the principle of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

But he said Azerbaijan could grant Karabakh a high degree of autonomy and guarantee the security of its people.

Armenian officials have said they want an extremely high level of autonomy in exchange for recognising the disputed territory as part of Azerbaijan.

Yeltsin: Russian economy has turned the corner

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin told the Russian people Friday the past year had been the hardest of his life but the economy had finally turned the corner after years of industrial decline.

"The breakthrough has already happened," Mr. Yeltsin declared in a radio address marking the first anniversary of his reelection for a second and final presidential term.

"That is it. We have reached the point when it is possible for production to go up. The decline has been stopped."

The 66-year-old president, speaking clearly and fluently in a wide-ranging speech, did not say when or by how much the economy would grow and made clear the Russian people would

not feel the benefit immediately.

"In 1995 and 1996 we could not even dream of this," he said. "In individual regions there is already a small growth. True, it is still small. People will be able to feel the growth when it starts in the majority of regions."

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin also sounded confident Wednesday when he said Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the broadest measure of economic health, had grown one per cent in the first six months of this year.

That, he said, was the first rise in GDP, the value of goods and services produced, since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Many financial analysts share this confidence about

the economy, although they have expressed doubt that GDP is already rising. Few say they expect the stock market to jump simply because of a rise in GDP.

Mr. Yeltsin, first elected in 1991, has been quietly celebrating the anniversary of his election victory over a Communist challenger last July which won him a four-year new term.

He spent most of the first eight months of his new term out of the Kremlin because of health problems, but has reaffirmed his grip on power since undergoing heart surgery last November.

"This year, I think, was the most difficult of my life, but it was also a special, unique one. I could never have imagined that a man of my age could change so

much. But that is how it turned out," he said. "I can feel how I have changed."

Mr. Yeltsin, partly at the behest of his daughter and imagemaker Tatyana Dyachenko, has used his regular radio addresses to explain the major political changes of the last few months.

He said he had reshuffled the government in the spring to promote liberal reformers partly because his ill health made him realise how little time his presidency gave him to act.

"It was precisely then that I felt with particular acuteness how quickly time goes by, how much I still need to do," Mr. Yeltsin said. "That is why I called new people into the government — young, sensible, dynamic people."

Poland to move on new fighters soon, but carefully

WARSAW (R) — Poland aims to launch a competition among foreign firms within months to supply it with new fighter aircraft, but it must avoid over-straining its economy, Defence Minister Stanislaw Dobrzanski said.

Poland, which expects to be invited at next week's North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit in Madrid to start talks on joining the Western pact, has an ageing air fleet and Defence Ministry officials say it needs 100 modern multi-purpose fighters.

"The aircraft are essential for the Polish armed forces in four or five years but to acquire them then, we must make a decision or at least prepare a competition in a

few months — preferably this year," Mr. Dobrzanski told a news conference.

He said a decision to invite bids could be made once the government finishes a 15-year plan for modernisation of the armed forces, now near completion, although he was unclear whether it could happen before Sept. 21 general elections.

But Mr. Dobrzanski said that Poland was admired by NATO members largely because of its economic success and could not allow this to be harmed by ill-judged or excessive arms purchases.

"We must do this calmly and deliberately. We must always remember that we cannot harm a well evolving economy... through purchas-

es for the Polish armed forces that are ill-judged, excessive or concentrated in one period," he said.

A Saab/British Aerospace PLC consortium is offering its Jas 39 Gripen while U.S. giants Lockheed Martin Corp. and McDonnell Douglas Corp., with the F16/C and F18 Hornet, and France's Dassault Aviation, with the Mirage 2000-5, are in the race.

A future acquisition may be coordinated with Hungary and the Czech Republic, the other two former Soviet bloc states due to get NATO invitations at Madrid, and Poland is holding out for the best deal for its own industry through offsets and contracts for its factories.

For the three candidates to join NATO by 1999 as planned, their entry must be ratified by legislators of all existing member states, especially by two-thirds of the U.S. senators.

Some firms have suggested ratification could be easier if Poland buys Western arms, but Mr. Dobrzanski said NATO politicians had told him purchases were not a condition for entry — especially as Western countries were competing with each other.

"Serious NATO politicians warn us: 'Don't believe all that businessmen say, as they are trying to squeeze the most possible out of Poland's economy,'" he added.

Japanese empress hospitalised with fever

TOKYO (R) — Empress Michiko was admitted to hospital late Thursday suffering a high fever and a headache, Japan's Imperial Household Agency said.

Court doctors diagnosed two days ago that the 62-year-old empress had herpes zoster, a form of a virus infection that causes rashes along the nervous system.

Empress Michiko complained of a severe headache and high fever late Thursday afternoon after attending an awards ceremony in Tokyo, the agency said.

"The symptoms of herpes zoster were receding, but we decided to hospitalise her highness to avoid the possibility of her developing meningitis," Court Doctor Tatsuo Ikenaga told reporters late Thursday.

Government spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference Friday that Empress Michiko's condition appeared stable and that she was heading for recovery.

"We received an unofficial call (from the Household Agency) that her highness's condition has stabilised, with her headache better and fever lower," Mr. Kajiyama said.

Court doctors said Empress Michiko's illness was probably due to fatigue from a two-week trip to South America in late May, when she accompanied Emperor Akihito.

Emperor Akihito and their daughter Princess Nori, 28, visited Empress Michiko at the hospital Friday morning, and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed concern.

"I was worried because she wore a bandage on her arm at a tea party (Wednesday)," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters. "Members of the imperial family work too hard fulfilling public duties. She has a headache so it's best she follows her doctors' advice."

The agency cancelled Empress Michiko's official duties.

Clinton denies sexual harassment

LITTLE ROCK (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton has "adamantly" denied the sexual harassment charge brought against him by Paula Jones and asked a federal judge to dismiss her lawsuit.

Mr. Clinton, in a formal response to Ms. Jones' lawsuit, said Ms. Jones was motivated by greed and had collaborated with his political enemies in an attempt to damage his presidency.

He said he had no memory of ever having met Ms. Jones.

"At no time did the president make sexual advances toward the plaintiff or otherwise act improperly in her presence. At no time did the president conspire to or sexually harass the plaintiff," Mr. Clinton's lawyers wrote.

Ms. Jones was a state employee while Mr. Clinton was governor of Arkansas. She claimed he ordered one of his bodyguards to escort her to a Little Rock hotel room during a government conference in May, 1991 and then asked her to perform a sex act. Ms. Jones says she refused.

Her sexual harassment suit, filed against Mr. Clinton and the bodyguard, seeks \$700,000 in damages.

"President Clinton adamantly denies the false allegations contained in the complaint," his attorneys told the court.

They asked Judge Susan Webber Wright to postpone the discovery process until she ruled on Mr. Clinton's motion to dismiss Ms. Jones suit.

Mr. Clinton's lawyers said Ms. Jones' lawsuit failed to meet the criteria for a sexual harassment action and offered no evidence

to suggest she had been emotionally or financially harmed by the alleged incident.

Mr. Clinton's motion said Ms. Jones had "thrust herself into the public limelight" by announcing her lawsuit "at a political event sponsored by vigorous opponents of the president, while seated next to an attorney with whom she had agreed to share the proceeds from any resultant book or film deal."

Mr. Clinton's lawyers noted that the last name of a woman named "Paula" was not published in an article in a conservative magazine that discussed Mr. Clinton's alleged extramarital affairs.

They said Ms. Jones had proclaimed herself as the woman identified only as "Paula" in the article "by joining with long-time political opponents of the president who sought to discredit him and his presidency." The motion did not identify the opponents by name.

Ms. Jones acted, according to Mr. Clinton's motion, "to maximize her potential to derive economic benefit and simultaneously to harm the president politically."

Gilbert Davis, an attorney for Ms. Jones, told CNN that Mr. Clinton's denial did not change his assessment that "the evidence is strong as it's been filed."

The White House referred questions about the matter to Mr. Clinton's personal attorney, Robert Bennett.

Mr. Bennett, speaking to the Washington Post before the papers were filed, said, "the bottom line is we're going to move quickly. It's a very strong pleading and hits the issue very strongly."

Sri Lanka on alert for rebel attacks

COLOMBO (R) — Security in Sri Lanka was stepped up Friday as Tamil Tiger separatists began commemorating the death of their first suicide bombers 10 years ago.

Officials said security has been tightened in the capital Colombo and elsewhere and the military, battling Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the north, was on high alert for rebel attacks.

"We have to be extra careful," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The LTTE, who are fighting a 13-year-old war for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east, commemorate July 5 as Black Tigers Day, in memory of three of their fighters who led the first successful suicide attack against the military a decade ago.

The separatists drove a vehicle filled with explosives into a school building housing an army camp in northern Jaffna on July 5, 1987, killing several soldiers.

Military officials said troops were on high alert for attacks by separatists in the northern brush jungles of the Wanni region where the army is attempting to open a strategic highway to link the Jaffna Peninsula with the rest of the island.

Some 20,000 troops launched operation Jaya Sikuru, or Sure of Victory, in May to wrest control of the highway, which passes through the rebel heartland.

They captured rebel towns in the Wanni before the LTTE hit back with two counterattacks in two weeks last month, slowing the offensive.

The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war, now in its 14th year. The LTTE say the toll is higher.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munsinghe told a news conference Thursday that troops were consolidating their gains in the cap-

tured areas in anticipation of more rebel attacks.

"The LTTE are resorting to terror tactics instead of conventional warfare. We have to prepare ourselves, specially with the experience we have had," he said.

The *Clandestine Voice of Tigers* radio said the rebels were organising special ceremonies to mark Black Tigers Day. The radio did not give details.

July is a critical month for Sri Lanka as the rebels commemorate several events that have special significance to the conflict.

Sri Lanka's ethnic war started after the LTTE killed 13 soldiers in Jaffna in July 1983. Island-wide anti-Tamil riots followed, claiming at least 400 lives.

Last year, the rebels overran a big military camp in northeastern Mullaitivu amid reports they killed or captured the entire garrison of more than 1,000 troops.

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Jordan Times

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Afghans have suffered enough

ONE OF the most tragic scenes in the world today is the ongoing war in Afghanistan. According to the latest reports, the Islamic Taleban militia has seized the headquarters of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani in the north of that war-ravaged country. Certainly the Taleban militia and their supporters are happy and patting each other on the back for a job well-done. Or was it? A few days ago Rabbani's top commander, Ahmad Shah Masood, had pushed back the Taleban fighters in a different part of Afghanistan. Surely the anti-Taleban fighters and their supporters were jubilant for the so-called victory they achieved during that battle.

But the question is who is the winner in this war that has devastated almost all of Afghanistan. Militarily the Taleban seem to have the upper hand at present but they are still far from achieving the final victory they seek, which remains elusive not while there are foreign suppliers of arms to all sides in this unfortunate conflict.

It was not long ago when the people of Afghanistan were called upon to make the greatest sacrifice by resisting a foreign occupation force and returning the country to the leadership of its own people. The cost in human lives and resources was great. It would have taken several decades to overcome the destruction of the country's infrastructure and rehabilitate the people after the first tragic episode. Yet the people of Afghanistan are facing a second phase of tragedies. This time brother is fighting against brother in the name of Islamic purity or against the domination of one ethnic group over another while all sides are claiming to be fighting for the well-being of the Afghan people.

The time has come for the leaders of all sides in the Afghan puzzle to be honest with themselves and cast an objective glance at the situation around them. For if they have the courage to do that they will realise that only outsiders will gain from this kind of fratricide for it is those outsiders who, by supporting one side against the other, are seeking to influence the future of Afghanistan. Afghan leaders should not kid themselves that they are fighting for the Afghan people, for no matter which side wins this destructive war the biggest losers will be those same people that all sides claim they are fighting for.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily focused its attention on the ongoing events in the occupied town of Hebron, on the West Bank, where the Israelis and the settlers are committing repressive actions against the Palestinians and defaming Islam and Prophet Mohammad. The paper said that while the Netanyahu government is busy with its own internal problems, it is ignoring all calls for ending the current deadlock in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians and going ahead with plans to build Jewish settlements. Furthermore, the Israeli government is enforcing the hands of the settlers who still live in Hebron and encouraging them to maintain their onslaught on the Arab inhabitants, according to the paper. The bloody events in Hebron ring an alarm bell to the world community: the countries of the region because they could be escalated into a full war between the Palestinians, the Israelis, with devastating consequences to the peace process, and the stability of this region, warned the paper. It is hoped, said the paper, that the United States, the sponsor of the peace process, will take immediate measures to salvage the peace process and stop Israel's repressive and aggressive measures against the Palestinians.

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm daily said that the United States is adopting a hostile stand towards Egypt because the Arab country is gradually moving away from Israel, despite the peace treaty they signed more than 15 years ago. Riham Faru said that Washington is threatening to stop financial aid to Egypt because Egypt is taking a firm stand in the face of the Netanyahu government's policies and backing the Palestinian people's stance and rights. The writer noted that Egypt has recently arrested spies working for Israel and is spearheading the Arab League's calls on the Arab countries to stop normalising relations with the Jewish state until it complies with the requirements of peace. At the same time, the writer pointed out, Egypt is currently implementing a huge economic reform programme which will transform the country into a major power in the region by the end of the present century. In view of these facts, said the writer, Washington is considering Egypt as a hostile force to Israel, which requires a new U.S. policy towards that country.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Doha economic conference — the ball is in the Israeli court

THE ANNOUNCEMENT that Saudi Arabia will not attend the next Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Doha because of the expected presence there of Israel seems to have sealed the fate of the event itself. It is highly unlikely that the Arab World would go ahead with the conference — despite Doha's efforts not to torpedo the forum which it sees as vital for Arab-Arab cooperation rather than Arab-Israeli cooperation.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali made clear in his comments in Bahrain, Wednesday, that Jordan had been attending the MENA conferences since their inception in 1994, if only because of the Kingdom's belief in the very concept of dialogue and interaction among all parties involved as the means to achieve peace through confidence and trust.

Obviously, the Israelis did not share the belief. For them, the equation seemed to have been simple: the military might of the Jewish state is a good enough answer to any Arab demand for justice and international legitimacy and the Arabs should see it as a great favour that Israel is sitting down to peace negotiations at all.

If that is the case, then what is the very point in continuing the process? But calling off the peace talks is not the answer either because it has been firmly established that peace is a strategic option of all parties concerned, except Israel of course, and the alternative is more chaos, instability and insecurity as well as extremism in the Middle East region. Surely no one wants to get to that point either.

In the context of the MENA conference, it would have been much better if all the Arabs did go there despite the Israeli presence and send a strong message to the Israeli businessmen attending the forum that the Arab World simply does not want to do business with them as long as their government pursues an illogical policy that defies the world's will and makes a mockery of international legitimacy.

That could have been the most effective way, under the circumstances, to add pressure on the government of Benjamin Netanyahu. Let us not overlook the fact that the strongest power within Israel, to apply any pressure on the government, is the business community itself, and we could convince Israeli businessmen that they could not hope to do business with the Arabs without respecting the legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinians and others; it would become clear to these businessmen, then, that the obvious target for pressure is their own government.

Now that we seem to be short of achieving that goal, what are Jordan's options?

For one thing, Jordan cannot simply stay away from the MENA conference, if indeed it is held. After all, Jordan has made peace with Israel and signed a treaty to that effect which stipulates full economic and trade relations. We are committed to our undertakings and we will live by them.

At the same time, we cannot ignore Arab public opinion either. We are part and parcel of the Arab World and our relations with Israel or any other country cannot and will

not come at the expense of our ties with our Arab brethren. Beyond everything, indeed, is our genuine concern for the setbacks that the Palestinians have received in their negotiations with Israel despite the sweeping concessions they made since the launch of the Oslo process.

Of course, there is indeed the prospect of serious and dramatic changes on the Israeli political scene. If those changes, from now until the end of August, are conducive to reviving hope for a genuine renewal of the peace process, then we are better advised to attend the meeting.

The best choice available to us is to advocate a postponement of the Doha meeting. Unless, of course, Israel makes a genuine move to break the deadlock on the Israeli-Palestinian track of negotiations.

Indeed, we run a major risk here, because Israel might be willing to make public statements of commitment to continuing the peace process in a serious manner and of remaining bound by the Oslo principles, but it could very conveniently change its mind after the MENA conference. That is where we need iron-clad guarantees that Israel will live up to its promises and commitments. And since no one, except perhaps a hesitant U.S., is able to offer such guarantees, we run up against a wall again.

But if the meeting is indeed cancelled or even postponed, that would also serve as a strong message to the Israelis that the Arab World this time means business when it professes wholehearted support for the Palestinian and Arab rights.

Either way, the choice is Israel's.

Botswana loses 'soft' reputation with media clampdown

By Prof Malema
Agence France Presse

GABORONE — Botswana, one of Africa's wealthiest and most liberal states, has lost much of its "soft" reputation, with journalists concerned that a tough new media bill poses a serious threat to free speech.

The draft mass media bill, which goes before Botswana's cabinet on July 9 and could be enacted by mid-August, calls for stiff new penalties for foreign and local journalists who break as-yet unnamed regulations.

All media members, including foreign journalists, would also have to join a state-appointed National Press Council, which can enforce media regulations with prison terms and fines, according to government officials.

The bill, which also requires all media compa-

nies to be 80 per cent owned by local shareholders, would force the country's only two national newspapers, the Botswana Guardian and its sister, the Midweek Sun, to close or be sold.

Both newspapers are 100 per cent owned by William Jones, a British businessman based in Botswana.

Local independent newspapers have described the bill as "shocking" and "heavy-handed."

The southern African press freedom watchdog, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), has termed it "a serious potential threat to freedom of expression and the free flow of information" while the Paris-based lobby group Reporters sans Frontières said in an open letter to President Ketumile Masire it was worried the draft law included "restrictive measures".

The Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI) also weighed in on June 28, telling Mr. Masire that the proposed legislation was "an unacceptable infringement on press freedom."

"Botswana has often been cited in recent years as one of Africa's few shining lights, where the press operates freely and fairly," IPI Director Johann Fritz said.

"The enactment of this bill will serve to nullify previous progressive efforts," he added, urging Mr. Masire to scrap the measures.

Mr. Fritz said the proposals contravene the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a resolution protecting press freedom passed recently at a meeting of the Southern African Development Community hosted by Botswana.

harsh law like this without providing guarantees for press freedom," commented Midweek Sun editor Shimoelgo Boitumelo on June 27.

"I do not think that even Abacha has done what the Botswana government is trying to do," Mr. Boitumelo added, referring to Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha, who has been criticised for his country's human rights record.

Keto Segwai, editor of the Guardian, the country's largest weekly, called on the government to allow individual media outlets to accredit their own journalists, instead of requiring a state registry.

Mr. Segwai also recalled the state was largely controlling the local press through the official news agency, the Botswana Press Agency (BOPA), and the state-run Botswana Daily News.

already dictating stories to BOPA, and what will be able to stop officials in future from dictating who should get press cards," he said.

The Tswana-language paper, Mmegi, has also condemned the bill, calling it "shocking" and "becoming of an old order."

Botswana government officials have countered that the proposed law is a response to foreign domination of the press. During the 1980s, a South African military-backed newsletter, News Link, allegedly spread pro-apartheid propaganda in the country, presidential Permanent Secretary for Administration Philip Matsise said.

Mr. Matsise further argued that "our laws are still weak" and new regulations are necessary to ensure that "our press regulates itself."

national television broadcaster, has been flooded with license applications, including several from overseas countries like Japan and Malaysia, according to officials.

The government, led by president Ketumile Masire, has also recently banned foreign filming of the hunter-gather San bushmen, who still eke out traditional livelihoods in the vast central Kalahari game reserve.

Many San have accused the government of trying to force them out of the reserve, which is remote and largely undeveloped, in order to turn it into a lucrative tourist attraction.

The diamond-rich landlocked country of 1.5 million people bordering South Africa has one of the continent's most open markets, and its richest economy per capita.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Premier Majali's tour of Arab states bolstering Jordan's ties with those countries

REVIEWED BY
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL dailies focused their attention last week on the escalating violence in Hebron, the peace process, domestic affairs and pan-Arab issues, in addition to prospects of holding the Doha economic summit in November.

Rashid Hassan, a writer for Al Aswaq, discussed the Israeli settlers' defamation of Prophet Mohammad in posters distributed in Hebron as one link in a long chain of Zionist desecration of the Islamic religion and acts of aggression on Muslim shrines.

He said that the Zionists are known to have desecrated the mosques of Haifa, Jaffa and Acre, in Palestine, sprayed bullets that killed scores of Muslim worshippers in Hebron and burnt Al Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem.

The writer said that Zionism's enmity towards Islam does not end and the Arabs and Muslims are bound to witness many more instances of such barbaric behaviour which represents the Jews' deep hatred towards humanity.

Hilmi Asmar, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm, said that the settlers' defamation of Prophet Mohammad and Islam represents a flagrant

aggression on Islam and an offence to 1.2 billion Muslims around the world.

Whenever the Jews see a swastika painted on their graves or the outer walls of their institutions in Europe, they raise the hue and cry and accuse Europeans of being anti-Semitic, noted the writer.

He said that the defamation of Islam by the Jewish settlers in Hebron should draw a strong reaction from Muslims around the world. Indeed, the settlers' action serves as a test and a challenge for the Arabs and Muslims and their real feelings towards their holy shrines and faith.

In light of Israel's practices, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm called on the Arabs to stop using the term peace with Israel, saying that there is no peace process going on and there is no peaceful act on the part of Israel towards the Arabs and the Palestinians.

Taher Adwan said that the term peace, which sprang from the Madrid conference of 1991, is no more viable, in light of Israel's disregard of the peace requirements and the peace accords with the Arabs.

What the Israelis are involved in now is not a peace process but rather a partitioning of the Arab land of Palestine and continued repression of the

Palestinian people, he added.

The writer said that those confronting the Arabs in Palestine are not their cousins but rather their enemies who scoff at the Arabs' feelings, at their religion and prophet, perpetuate their occupation of their lands and holy shrines and continue to massacre the Arabs in Palestine and Lebanon.

A writer for Al Dustour tackled the coming elections, saying that those who try to boycott the elections are scared of being involved in the democratic process.

Any boycott by any party or political group reflects cowardice and an attempt to escape from facing the moment of truth, said Mohammad Daoud.

The writer said that all political factions in the country should take part in the elections, which represent an exercise in democracy.

because Jordan is in need of different ideas and an opposition in Parliament to monitor the government's behaviour.

Some of the parties are shying away from the elections for fear of facing a dissatisfactory result but, said the writer, boycotting the elections does not win these groups any more popularity.

He said it is hoped that all factions and all eligible voters will take part in

the coming elections so that democracy can survive.

Oreih Rintawi, a writer for Al Dustour, said that the Islamic action front (IAF) will commit a major blunder if it decides to boycott the coming general elections because experience had shown that boycotting elections has its damaging effect on the parties that exercise such a practice.

The writer said that by boycotting the elections, the IAF will be isolated from the political developments in the country and will gradually be weakened.

If the IAF is boycotting the elections because of the one-person, one-vote system, how can it contribute to reforming this system with no members in Parliament, asked the writer.

He said that the IAF and other opposition parties are needed in parliament to influence the government's decisions on the various laws.

A writer for Al Aswaq said that some people in Jordan have made begging their career and their profession instead of directing their attention to a decent job to earn a living.

The mere presence of beggars in our streets is a shame for the Jordanian society and government, and is a clear indication

of the existence of social and economic imbalances, said Rashid Hassan.

The writer said that the society, in general, and the Ministry of Social Development, in particular, have a duty to address the poverty Jordan has been facing in the past years and to deal with the beggars in a humanitarian manner rather than launching campaigns to arrest them, demanded the writer.

He said that the beggars require assistance to get rehabilitated so that they can embark on a new life.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i daily, described the Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's current tour of different Arab countries as very important and reflective of Jordan's quiet diplomacy to rally Arab ranks.

The prime minister's visits to the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and Bahrain and his coming visit to Egypt, are designed to bolster Jordan's ties with the Arab states on the one hand and to end differences among the Arab countries on the other, said the writer.

The Arab World is in need of such an endeavour at a time when the Arab countries are in disarray and differing on common issues, he said, adding that the Kingdom

is keen on maintaining strong ties, backing the idea of a common Arab market and protecting pan-Arab interests.

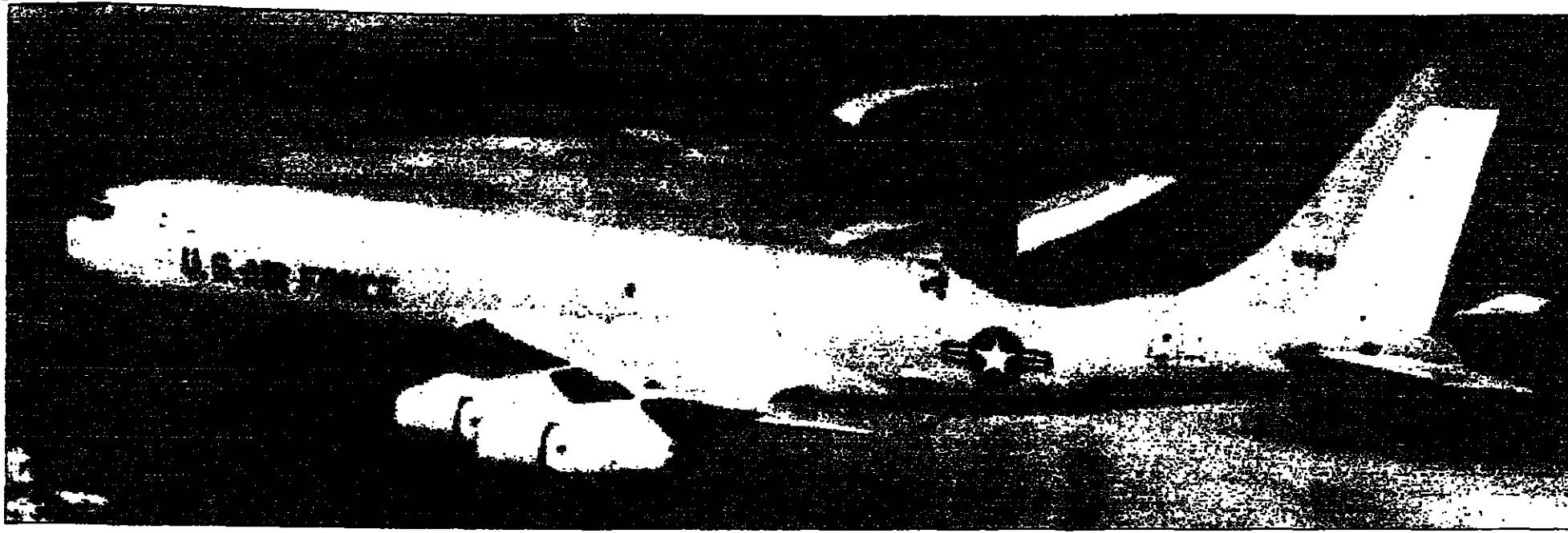
The writer said that the prime minister's tour falls in line with the country's orientation at this crucial stage facing the Arab Nation.

Hussein Abu Rummam, a writer for Al Ra'i, said that Qatar, which is hosting the economic summit in Doha later this year, should take time to ask for an Arab summit meeting which can decide whether the summit is to be held or not.

The writer said that Qatar should link the Doha summit with progress in the peace process if Israel is to attend the coming meeting.

He added that the Qatari rulers should not place themselves in an embarrassing situation by declaring that the economic summit will definitely be held, at a time when many Arab states are boycotting it, neither should they later announce that it is cancelled, giving reasons for that decision.

The writer said that an Arab summit meeting should decide whether the meeting is to take place or not, in light of Israel's continued actions and disregard of the cause of peace.



An American AWACS spy plane, of the type used by the U.S. to eavesdrop on its closest ally in the Middle East

U.S. spy planes reveal Israel's secrets

By Robert Fisk

WASHINGTON — A United States Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) electronic intelligence gathering aircraft flies up the Israeli border with Jordan every day, "hoovering-up" the radio traffic of its closest Middle East ally. Washington says nothing about the flights — nor their purpose: to spy on the Israeli army and air force, to find out if their public statements on violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and their bombing raids on Lebanon accord with the Israeli military communications swept by the U.S. air crews flying out of Saudi Arabia.

Hebrew-speaking crewmen even record the radio traffic of Israeli army units inside the occupied West Bank, noting the exact words of Israeli commanders when they report on confrontations with Palestinian stone-throwers — as well as air-to-air communication by Israeli pilots flying bombing or reconnaissance flights over Lebanon. Full reports of the Israeli radio traffic are routinely forwarded to Washington.

The existence of the

AWACS flights is known to Israel, although U.S. officials have hitherto suggested that their mission is to monitor Iraqi and Jordanian military communications rather than Israeli forces. Israeli intelligence operatives, however, have long been aware that the United States military-trained Hebrew speakers at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Institute at Monterey, California, which also employs around 100 Arab scholars from Lebanon, Syria and the Gulf, as well as Iraq.

The AWACS missions have been in operation along the Israeli border for at least 12 years; former crewmen say that Israel's military communications have been monitored ever since Israeli aircraft attacked the USS

Yitzhak Rabin as a "mistake" — left the U.S. navy deeply suspicious of Israel's motives and intentions in the Middle East. The Liberty, according to intelligence officials in Washington, was listening in to Israel's strategic weapons site in the Negev Desert in an attempt to predict whether it would launch nuclear strikes against Egypt.

But Israel probably does not need to worry too much about America's eavesdropping. "The USS Liberty incident was never far from our minds," a former AWACS linguist — who flew out of the U.S.-built airbase at Dhahran — told The Independent. "We listened to everything that came out of Israel, just hoovered them up. We would listen to their radio messages from individual Israeli units on the streets of Nablus or Gaza. And we'd hear them say that they'd killed a Palestinian during a riot — even though the Israelis would say officially that they didn't kill anyone. We reported all this back to Washington. Then, after a while, we found that Washington didn't want this information. We

realised we were wasting our time. The information wasn't used."

According to the same source, U.S. AWACS monitors taped all Israeli radio traffic during the 1986 Palestinian intifada. "Our linguists had a bonanza," he said. "The Israelis would say they hadn't killed anyone but we would have heard them say 'three dead'. They were lying publicly. We'd turn round Gaza and then go north up the Jordanian border and then turn back south-east again. We were even listening to the Israeli navy."

The AWACS missions have not always been welcomed by the Saudis. Even before the 1991 Gulf war, the Saudis would refuse permission — without reason — for the AWACS to take off. U.S. monitors flew on super-secret RC-135 reconnaissance missions during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, and some quickly learned that their government had long-term ambitions to base intelligence-gathering operations in Saudi Arabia. A U.S. Air Force colonel told one AWACS monitor in October of 1990 that "we've been trying for

years to establish a base here, and now that we're here we're not leaving until they physically throw us out."

Last year, a bomb attack on a U.S. base in Dhahran left 19 American servicemen dead and another 500 wounded. The Saudis themselves bought an RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, sending its crew for training at Greenville, Texas.

"Because most of the aeroplane was filled with Arabic linguists and we had the capability to intercept communications from quite a distance, it was almost hopeless trying to convince them (the Saudis) that we would not be listening to 'host country' communications," the former AWACS crew member said. The Saudi government did in fact let us fly a few missions over their country during the Iran-Iraq war, but each one involved an incredible amount of diplomatic wrangling, and we never knew until the day of the mission whether or not we were going to be able to take off."

The Independent

Americans get free access to medical website

By Helen Pettigrew

WASHINGTON — Americans now have access to free medical information through MEDLINE, a website operated by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest medical library. Previously users had to register and pay a fee to use MEDLINE and other NLM services.

The new service was announced by Vice President Al Gore at a news conference hosted by Senators Arlen Specter and Tom Harkin on June 26. The vice president was the first to conduct a free search of the MEDLINE website.

The MEDLINE database holds the most extensive collection of published medical information in the world. It allows individuals and organisations to search the NLM's computer reserve of journal articles on a variety of topics. Currently the website contains more than nine million medical articles from 70 countries, and is growing at a rate of over 1,000 articles per day.

The vice president noted the expedience of the website to the average citizen, and even to physicians, referring to MEDLINE as a "homepage that makes house calls."

"From a computer in the comfort of your own home or from one in your neighbourhood library, you will be able to access timely and accurate medical information. Already 30,000 people a day are using MEDLINE. By making it more accessible, free and private, we can increase that number many times over," he said.

Also present at the conference was Suzanne McInerney, a book editor from Pennsylvania, who created MEDLINE eight years ago, before the World Wide Web had been invented. McInerney used MEDLINE to research her 74-year-old mother's cancer.

"My search of the medical literature in MEDLINE led me to an innovative surgery for liver tumours being performed by a doctor in Ohio," she said. "I feel that the surgery helped my mother live an additional four years."

Later, when McInerney's daughter was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, she again used MEDLINE to research treatment options and with the help of her doctor was able to enroll her daughter in experimental therapy available only through clinical trial. Now, two years later, her daughter is free of lymphoma and has returned to her university studies.

Vice President Gore, accompanied by Dr. Donald Lindberg, director of the National Library of Medicine, and Dr. David Lipman, director of the National Centre for Biotechnology Information, demonstrated the user-friendly technology to the public. In just a few minutes the vice president was able to research information on his damaged Achilles tendon. He also discovered methods of prevention for his children's ear infections.

MEDLINE provides the public with easy access to useful information. "The latest medical breakthrough will be at the fingertips of American families," stated Senator Harkin.

USA

Isolation, hostility face Israel's top academic in Cairo

By Louis Meixler
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — The director of the Israeli Cultural Centre in Egypt's capital flips through a thin Arabic-language pamphlet. He stops at a picture of himself with the caption "Professor Sasson Somekh, the famous Jewish spy."

Life in the Arab World's largest city has been frustrating for Mr. Somekh, and it is only becoming more so as Egypt's cold peace with Israel turns frigid.

Egypt's press has stepped up attacks on Mr. Somekh and the centre. Egyptian academics who once considered visiting Israel have halted contacts. Even Mr. Somekh's American-born wife, Terrie, found doors closing — a job offer was withdrawn after a potential employer read a scathing article on the centre.

"We are pariahs here," said Mr. Somekh, 63, a greying, soft-spoken professor of Arabic literature from Tel Aviv University who is one of the world's top experts on Naguib Mahfouz, the Egyptian author who won the 1988 Nobel prize in literature.

Mr. Somekh said he plans to leave Egypt as soon as his term at the centre ends in October.

"We are being treated as though we are trying to rob Egypt of something, not as scholars," he said, sitting in his small office. On the wall is a painting of Saadia Gaon, a Jewish scholar born more than 1,000 years ago in Fay-

oum, a town south of Cairo.

The Israeli academic centre was set up in 1982 by Israel's six universities to boost cultural ties with Egypt after the signing of the Israel-Egypt peace accord. But it was never well received because many Egyptians remain suspicious of their former enemy.

As the Middle East

was changing," said Mr. Somekh, who was born in Baghdad but fled to the newly established state of Israel in 1951 along with many in Iraq's Jewish community.

Mr. Somekh's optimism began to fade after an April 1996 Israeli artillery blitz in southern Lebanon killed almost 100 Arab civilians taking shelter in a United

"When I tell people I am Israeli, the typical response is, 'Why did you elect this awful prime minister?'" said Mr. Somekh, a leftist who opposes Netanyahu's policies. "I hear this every day."

The centre is housed on the third floor of a small building along the Nile that would be unremarkable except for the police officers standing in front with assault rifles.

"I don't feel threatened, but I am careful," Mr. Somekh said.

At a recent lecture at the centre, about a dozen Egyptians — students and professors of Hebrew — chatted in Hebrew with a few Israelis.

Ashraf Mohammed, a recent graduate of Ain Shams University, said he visits the centre despite warnings from family and friends.

"The centre does an important job of strengthening students' knowledge of Hebrew," he said.

In his office, Mr. Somekh displayed his collection of pamphlets on the centre, including "The spy's nest in dear Egypt: the secret files of the Israeli academic centre," the pamphlet includes a picture of Mr. Somekh and identifies him as a Jewish spy.

But Mr. Somekh's dour look quickly turned to a wide grin when asked if he would work at the centre again if relations between Egypt and Israel improved dramatically.

"Absolutely," he said without hesitation. "I would jump at it."

"When I tell people I am Israeli, the typical response is, 'Why did you elect this awful prime minister?'"

peace process stalled, that wariness has sometimes turned to hostility, especially in the news media.

"Appalling Israeli cultural scheme," the English-language Egyptian Gazette said in a headline for a story that accused the centre of trying to "brainwash students with Israeli ideas and thaw the ice between Egypt and Israel."

Mr. Somekh dismisses as ridiculous newspaper reports that the centre is spying on Egypt.

He agreed to head the centre in 1995, two years after Israel signed its peace agreement with the Palestinians. He hoped for warmer relations with Egypt and envisioned the centre growing from a library putting on lectures on Israeli history and culture into a meeting place that would expand ties between scholars.

"I had a feeling things

Nations peacekeeping base, Israel says the shelling was a mistake.

Mr. Somekh said he got calls in the middle of the night from Egyptian friends who told him: "Sasson, how could you do this? I am ashamed to be pro-peace."

Visitors to the centre slowed from the usual 20 or so a day to a trickle. "It is not good to go if there are problems," said a professor of Hebrew who attends lectures at the centre and has visited Israel repeatedly. "If I go there, it will seem as though I agree with what the Israeli government is doing."

He refused to give his name for fear his colleagues would shun him if newspapers published that he had visited Israel.

The tense situation deteriorated further after Israelis elected Benjamin Netanyahu's conservative government a year ago.

Prince Charles turns architect's dream into reality

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

POUNDBURY, England — On a lush green hillside in rural Dorset, one man's vision of utopia is being realised.

No ugly television aerials sprout from the roofs, no garish neon lights compete with the sunset, cars are tucked away in paved courtyards and there's not a block of concrete to be found.

After years of attacking modern architecture, Britain's future king, Prince Charles, has put theory into practice and tried to show the world how the traditions of the rural past can live in harmony with the needs of modern development.

The urban village of Poundbury, now taking shape on the outskirts of the southwestern market town of Dorchester, is being built on a 162-hectare site sold off by the prince's Duchy of Cornwall estate.

With its winding streets, flint-stone cottages, Georgian-style stone houses and mix of luxury houses and low cost homes for rent, Poundbury embodies the ideals set out by the philosopher prince in his book "a vision of Britain".

"If development in the countryside is going to take place, then I believe it must be done in such a way as to enhance rather than detract from the surrounding landscape. That is what we are trying to do at Poundbury, as well as attempt to engender a sense of community within an environment comprising econom-

ic activity and residential use," Prince Charles wrote.

Legendary distaste for modern architecture

The prince's distaste for modern architecture is legendary. He once slammed a proposed extension to London's classically proportioned 18th century National Gallery as a "monstrous carbuncle" and has since set up his own institute of architecture to remedy the onslaught of steel and glass buildings.

He was closely involved in every step of the development at Poundbury, right down to the selection of bricks and street lamps.

About 100 of the planned 2,500 houses are now built and occupied as well as a handful of small craft workshops.

Shops and, crucially, an English village pub are planned over the next two years as the development expands.

The result has been a mixture of styles creating the kind of village that might be recognised by Dorchester's 19th century rural romantic novelist Thomas Hardy.

Sheep graze in a field outside a converted Victorian farmhouse occupied by a U.S. high-technology firm Smtch.

Wrought-iron wall lamps shed an orange glow at night. All Poundbury lacks are thatched roofs and horses in the streets.

Critics, many of them victims of royal wrath, call it "retrophilia", pastiche and Disneyland.

"It's ambitions are simply retrogressive. It simulates a world of the past and a hierarchy in architecture that doesn't really have a place any more," said architect Piers Gough as building got under way three years ago.

"On the other hand I am glad Prince Charles is building it because at least he can get his teeth into something other than architects. It was about time he either put up or shut up," he said.

Tourist attraction

Despite, or because of, its unique design and royal patronage, Poundbury has already become a tourist attraction in its own right.

"We get tourists, architects, journalists, school trips, you name it," said Peter Bryant, chairman of the Poundbury Resident's Association.

"They expect you to jump about and perform a circus act occasionally... That's the only snag with living here," he said.

The Poundbury villagers, as they like to call themselves, certainly don't feel as if they are living out someone else's dream, although the social mix of retired people, single mothers, young families and a handful of Canadian and Spanish residents is working just as Charles envisaged.

"There is quite a team spirit, quite a togetherness. We had a bonfire night and a rounders evening and those who couldn't play turned out to cheer," said Mr. Bryant.

"A pub is planned but nobody is rioting in the streets. There is quite a social exchange going on here anyway with people popping into each other's places for a glass of wine, a natter or a coffee," he said.

Prince Charles is still a frequent visitor to Poundbury, keen to see reinforced the principles of creating a village atmosphere with a sense of identity in an urban context.

Poundbury's shopping, leisure, workplace and housing will be closely integrated in a move away from the thinking behind Britain's 1950s "new towns" where factories and shops were well separated from homes.

Furniture restorer Spencer Robertson welcomes the chance to have a workshop in Poundbury with both character and central heating.

"Most workshops are out on industrial estates and are just like double garages. But I'm a little disappointed that there are not more craftsmen here. There was a bakery, but that closed down for lack of trade," he said.

Prince Charles has said his aim in promoting a return to traditional building on a human scale is so that his children will inherit a "less ugly and less ecologically damaged world."

Mr. Bryant, enjoying an idyllic retirement in Poundbury, has less lofty hopes.

"I'm just grateful that he (Prince Charles) decided to sell off a plot of land and get on with it," he said.

USA

Lebanon throws tourism fest to lure back Arab visitors

BEIRUT (AFP) —

Lebanon has launched a summer-long Arab tourism festival to lure back visitors from oil-rich Gulf states who once pumped millions of dollars in the country known as the Switzerland of the Middle East.

"Lebanon is gearing up to host fellow Arabs at the grandest tourism festival in its scope," said Tourism Minister Nicolas Fattoush in a brochure sent to all Arab capitals.

The ministry has drawn up an intensive schedule which was launched Tuesday and lasts until Sept. 30 for 32 music and arts festivals as well as wide array of cultural and sports events.

It is part of a strategy to boost revenue from the tourism industry, whose returns constituted 20 per cent of the country's gross domestic product in 1974, a year before the devastating 15-year civil war broke out.

"Today, it is below eight per cent," an official at the Ministry of Tourism statistics department told AFP.

More than 1.2 million tourists visited Lebanon in 1974, of whom 62 per cent were Arab nationals and 21 per cent were from Europe and North America.

The number of tourists only reached 796,661 in 1995, however, before dropping further to

679,146 in 1996, mainly because of Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive that left more than 175 people dead in Lebanon, mostly civilians.

The onslaught, meant to hit guerrillas fighting to oust Israel from south Lebanon, severely damaged the country's infrastructure and reputation as a born-again tourist resort.

"We want to tell the world and the Arabs in particular that Lebanon is a primary tourist resort with its graceful mountains and seashore, rich archaeological sites and cultural events," a tourism ministry official said.

The ministry has been broadcasting three promotional films on local television stations that also air their programmes via satellite throughout the Arab World.

Hotels in Lebanon are offering package deals throughout the summer festival while most restaurants will present a "tourist menu" of between \$7 and \$15.

A special reception desk at Beirut Airport will offer visitors sweets and Arabic coffee as well as special calendars for the non-stop summer events all across the country.

Festivals held amid the spectacular ancient

archaeological sites in Baalbek, Beiteddine, Byblos and Tyre will draw world famous artists such as Russian conductor and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, sopranos Montserrat Caballe and Wilhelmina Fernandez and U.S. jazz singer Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Numerous other festivals, targeting Arab tourists and expatriate Lebanese, will be held in towns and villages across the country with performances by renowned Lebanese and Arab artists.

The summer events also include international trade and industry exhibitions which traditionally attract companies from around the world and particularly from the Gulf area.

The tiny Mediterranean country will also host round six of the 1997 Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) class one world offshore championship.

Also on the agenda is the eighth Pan-Arab Games due to draw tens of thousands of visitors to watch more than 2,000 athletes compete from 20 Arab states.

The games will take place at Beirut Sports City, newly-reconstructed with Arab capital after its destruction by

Israeli warplanes during the Jewish state's invasion of the country in 1982.

The complex is considered one of the symbols of Lebanon's 18-billion post-war reconstruction drive to recover from the massive devastation inflicted by the 1975-1990 civil conflict.

"We want the world and the Arabs to come witness this historical drive and at the same time enjoy Lebanon's natural beauty and cultural activities," said the Tourism Ministry official.

Meanwhile, a regional bank said Lebanon's economy will perform well in the coming two years due to a surge in post-war construction activity but its current account will widen.

The real gross domestic product (GDP) of the tiny Arab country grew by four per cent in 1996 compared with 6.5 per cent in 1995 and as high as 38.3 per cent in 1991, the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) said in its monthly bulletin.

"Lebanon's economy is likely to maintain its momentum in the coming two years with investment and private consumption providing the main growth impetus," the biggest Arab financing institution said.

"The country's real

GDP is projected to increase between five and six per cent annually in 1997-1998. The forecast is based on the assumption that the government will further scale down its investment outlays and Lebanon's private sector will continue to play a major role in the economic recovery, especially in the reconstruction process."

The study forecast weak performance of the farming and industrial sectors, among the main hard currency earners for Lebanon. It said the agricultural sector had been worst affected by Israel's three-week blitz against guerrillas in April 1996.

It also blamed the Israeli attack for slower

growth in 1996 as it caused losses of around \$500 million and scared off potential investors.

"Construction activity remained the main engine of economic activity although its value added to the GDP is less than the agricultural and industrial sectors," the bulletin said.

"The boom in this sector of the economy has been triggered by a combination of Lebanese as well as Arab Gulf investments," it added.

In its outlook for the current account of Lebanon, which was wrecked by a civil war during 1975-1990, the Bahrain-based ABC said the gap would continue to increase in the coming two years

because of an anticipated rise in the trade deficit. This is despite a projected growth in net transfers, it said.

In contrast, the overall balance of payments has remained in surplus over the past few years because of large capital inflows, it added.

It estimated Lebanon's external reserves, excluding gold, at around \$5.9 billion at the end of 1996 compared with \$4.5 billion at the end of 1995 and \$3.9 billion at the end of 1994.

"The country's foreign reserves situation will likely remain strong but will nevertheless continue to be vulnerable to confidence in the economy, government and regional development," it said.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 5, 1997

By Thomas S. Peterson, Astrologer, Carroll, Kitcher Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can make some valuable new friends today, so be charming and polite. Be very careful while you are driving or walking late this evening, thereby you cannot get into any difficult situations in the days ahead.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) A fellow associate who is down in the dumps today needs a little ego boost, so lend this individual some assistance. If you are having difficulty with a project later this evening, get some expert advice.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make an appointment today for a pleasant get-together with some of your best friends at recreational activities you all will enjoy. You should not become involved later this evening in a rich quick scheme.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get your home in perfect order this morning, then invite your most charming friends in for an evening of fun and frivolity. This is a good time to go out on the town for recreational activities which are fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you are specious in all your communications today, you can pull off a great coup in business through your efforts. Show your friends how much you value them by going out for the evening at a fun spot.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be more cooperative with your daily business contacts today, and get better results than usual. A financial expert can give you some good advice later this evening on career activities, so be sure you listen carefully.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Remember the old adage: All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, so plan to do some interesting recreational activities with your friends. It is extremely important that you don't drive recklessly later this evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Any secret desire you have can be realized today with just a little effort your part. A small present to your mate later this evening will improve this person's mood, so make the effort to show your appreciation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your social life can bring you some wonderful benefits at this time, especially this evening. Be sure to think before you speak or you are likely to say something which will cause you a great deal of difficulty.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contact persons in the same line of business as yourself today, and benefit from the experience. Take care of a troubling credit matter which you have put off for some time and which could resurface.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be alert today, and make notes of your ideas for business, since your memory may not be its best. Join in with a happy group of friends at recreational activities which will please every one involved.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study every phase of your relationship with your mate today, and find out how to improve communications with him or her. You should not overindulge later this evening or you could find yourself regretting the experience.

BIRTHSTONE OF JULY: Pearl — Ruby — Tiger's Eye

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	HKD	SGD	THB	MYR
US Dollar	1.7415	0.6913	1.4550	114.85	1.3820	1700.00	1.3688	8.8670	
DE Mark	0.5742	-	0.3448	68.354	0.7931	975.51	1.1247	3.3683	
GB Sterling	1.6630	2.8930	-	2.4081	190.45	2.2983	2827.10	3.2575	8.7588
CH Franc	0.5873	119.61	0.4127	-	76.92	0.9482	1167.58	134.89	4.0286
JP Yen	0.0087	1.1550	0.5228	1.2858	-	1.2623	14.79	170.40	5.1040
CA Dollar	0.7236	1.2353	0.4304	1.6910	1.28	-	1208.85	1.3900	4.1675
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0241	0.3534	0.8888	1481.82	0.8127	-	1.152	3.4802
NL Guilder	0.5105	88.86	0.3068	74.27	88.89	0.7052	847.44	-	2.5937
FR Franc	0.1704	0.2867	0.1024	24.7913	19.56	0.2355	33.38	33.3800	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	EGP	YER	IRI	PKR	TRY
US Dollar	1.7415	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6398	0.3022	3.6729	1535.50	3.3830
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2972	0.5324	5.1410	0.4268	5.1677	2168.75	4.7824
GB Sterling	0.2698	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0806	0.98	408.42	0.9047
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8781	9.3488	-	9.68	0.8015	9.74	4073.27	9.0607
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0830	1.01	421.88	0.9322
Kuwait Dinar	3.3086	2.3432	12.4124	1.2476	12.08	-	12.16	5097.91	0.9322
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0206	0.9919	0.0823	-	418.06	0.9238
Lebanese L1000	0.65	0.4611	2.4425	0.2452	2.3704	0.1965	2.3820	-	2.2087
Egyptian	0.2947	0.2087	1.1053	0.1111	1.0727	0.0881	1.0825	452.55	-

Energy			JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Last	Today	Currency	Today	Today
Coffee (c/ba)	185.57	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1898	Spot	GB Sterling	1.7761	1.182
Sugar (\$/ton)	326.5	Spot	DE Mark	0.4088	0.4088
Wheat (\$/ton)	140	Spot	CH Franc	0.4055	0.4083
Soya (c/ba)	22.2	Spot	FR Franc	1.1205	0.1211
Tea (stg/kg)	138	Spot	JP Yen	0.8169	0.82
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3614	0.3632
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	IT Lira	0.4161	0.4182

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

1 With reference to

5 "That touch liquor..."

9 Ooze

13 Forest ruminant

14 Worksite

15 Isle of —

17 Prelude to discovery

20 Vessel: abbr.

21 Org.

22 Waited

23 Sluggish Mel

25 Peculiar

27 "Nautilus" commander

28 Stream bed

30 Bean

32 Movie studio monogram

33 Border

34 Kitchen appliance

36 Nero's trio

39 References

42 Whitney

43 Transfer pictures

44 Voice

45 Some dogs.

47 Toward shelter

48 Hooligan

49 Middle East prince

51 School subj.

52 Morass

53 Flowers

55 Otto

58 Equal: pref.

61 Jean Paul

64 Heated quarrel

65 Clean

66 Map abbr.

67 Address Cannon

68 Services that count

69 Movie dog

DOWN

1 — of March

2 Following

3 Cloning, e.g.

4 Before

5 Clark's lady

6 Doctrines

7 Relating to observable facts

8 — Bernardino

9 Wound remnant

10 Partaking of a repast

11 Disease sleuths

12 Preface

16 — China

18 Squaler

19 Shaver

24 Yugoslav ruler

26 Bounce the baby

28 Article of merchandise

29 Adam's son

30 Capital of Togo

31 Purgative

32 "The A-Team" member

35 Liberalize

37 Division word

38 "The bird — the wing"

40 Docs

41 Desdemona's nemesis

46 Awn of grain

49 Tavern drinks

50 Blended

51 Comp. pt.

52 — canto

54 Collage jacket

56 Adjutant

57 Church service

59 Printing term

60 Greek peak

62 Gun gp.

63 A Gershwin

by Roger Jurgovan

PEARL	ROWS	OLAF
A	C	O
R	H	O
M	I	C
S	U	E
S	A	N
B	L	I
N	D	E
P	H	O
L	O	E
A	L	E
T	E	R
E	R	A
A	L	L
T	A	T
E	D	I
E	D	I
T	O	R
S	C	A

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Compaq Deskpro 4000N Delivers Lower Cost, Structured-task Computing

Compaq Computer Corporation is breaking new ground in the reduction of total ownership costs with its launch of the Compaq Deskpro 4000N. It aims to simplify desktop computer management with the introduction of the Compaq Deskpro 4000N, one of the first products to embody the Network PC specification, for which Compaq was one of five co-authors.

The small-footprint Compaq Deskpro 4000N delivers, in a scalable-case design, many of the same benefits and functionality of conventional PCs. However, the sealable-case design also lowers administration costs by enabling central control of hardware and software configurations. Based on industry-standard technology, the Compaq Deskpro 4000N protects customers' investments in PC-based systems and applications.

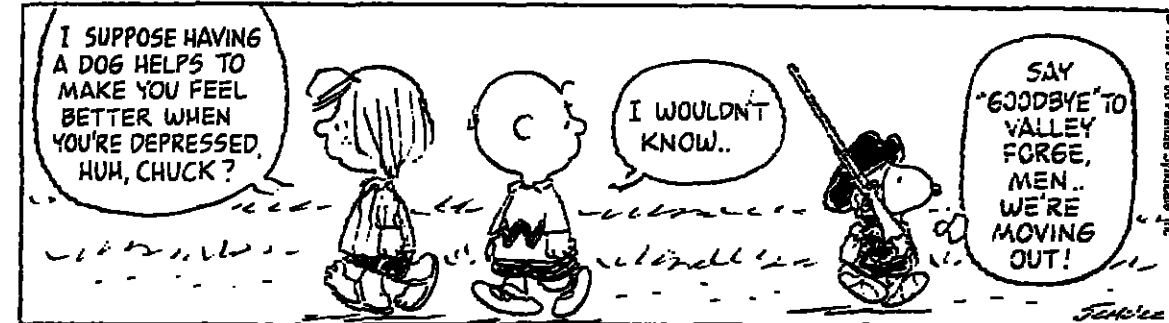
"As the largest supplier of commercial desktop PCs in the world, and in the Middle East, Compaq is well-known for incorporating world-class management technology into its products," said Dr. Walid Moneim, managing director, Compaq Computer Middle East. "The Deskpro 4000N continues this commitment by extending the benefits of the PC client, which supports Windows- and JAV-based technologies, and by further providing for central control of the desktop software and hardware configuration." The Compaq Deskpro 4000N allows users to centrally deploy and maintain consistent software configurations while minimizing work associated with hardware upgrades. This should reduce the time and cost of desktop management and provide users with access to the business applications and PC productivity tools they need to work at maximum efficiency.

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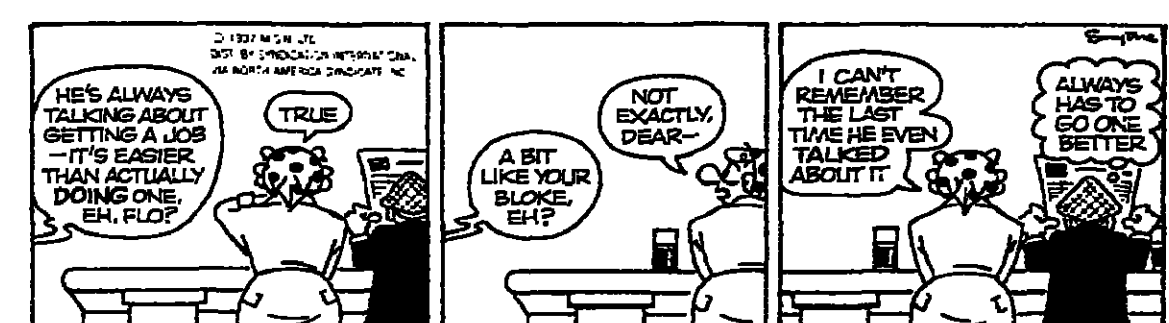
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

National Textile and Plastic Industries Company narrows loss

**** PRODUCTION WAS** disrupted during the months of December 1995 and January-February 1996 at the plant of the National Textile and Plastic Industries Company but the firm was still able to produce 1,150 tonnes, representing 82 per cent of the plant's production capacity. Board Chairman Faisal Ben Khadra told the general assembly that the production disruption was done to the inability of the exporter to implement the letters of credit opened in its favour until a very late date. "As such, resuming production became possible only by late February," the chairman told the shareholders.

Mr. Ben Khadra said the company was able to market 1,375 tonnes, representing 91.1 per cent of the production capacity and 110.9 per cent of the actual output. However, the volume of sales executed was 1,123 tonnes representing 80.21 per cent of the production capacity and 97.7 per cent of the actual production. He noted that part of the sales was from the stocks produced in 1995 and that 294.1 tonnes were to be delivered in 1997.

The chairman revealed that 430 tonnes or 38.31 per cent of the sales were exports to Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon and Sudan. He expressed the hope that the company will be able to market most of its production for 1997 estimated to be around 1,400 tonnes.

On the financial side, the company narrowed its loss in 1996 to JD161,000 from JD331,000 loss posted in 1995. As such, the accumulated loss at the end of last year

amounted to JD492,580 (JD331,570 at the end of 1995). Mr. Ben Khadra credit the ability to penetrate new markets and obtaining rewarding prices there and at the local market during the second half of last year for the success in narrowing the loss in 1996.

The company's total sales amounted to JD1.5 million last year and the shareholders' equity totalled about JD2 million noting that the paid-up capital is JD2,496,000 (Al Ra'i + Al Aswag).

Middle East Complex for Engineering, Electronic and Heavy Industries distributing JD2.2m in dividends

**** NET PROFIT** generated by the Middle East Complex for Engineering, Electronic and Heavy Industries Company accounted JD1.83 million, 4.7 per cent less than the 1995, net profit. After adding JD1.25 million of retained earnings from previous years, the net profit available for allocation rose to JD3.09 million.

As such, the general assembly has approved distributing JD2.2 million in dividends at a rate of 10 per cent of the JD22 million capital.

The company earned at total JD6.03 million in 1996 but the administrative and general expenses amounted to JD4.2 million. Total assets increased from JD41 million in 1995 to JD41.56 million at the end of 1996 (Al Ra'i).

Economic success of Internet unproven — Novell executive

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Despite the glut of Cyberspace-related products, the economic success of the Internet remains unproven, and many businesses have failed to make it profitable, a U.S. software executive has said.

Glenn Ricart, chief technology officer of Novell Inc., said the fact that there is "no proven economic model" for the Internet is the biggest challenge the high-technology communications facility faces.

Addressing the Internet society's annual conference, Mr. Ricart said, "we have most companies losing money in this."

He noted that software giant Microsoft Corp is giving away Internet products including its browser Internet Explorer.

None of the companies involved in Internet "are making a reasonable profit," he said. Even those which

have attempted subscription services have not been very successful, he said.

One problem is that advertising in Cyberspace has been losing its effectiveness, Mr. Ricart said. He said that in the past 90 days, he has found the "click through" rate of Internet users clicking on advertising banners on web sites to see their contents has been declining.

"There's a novelty factor," he said, noting that Internet users were inclined to lose interest in such ads the more they surfed the net.

Companies like Yahoo Inc. which sell such advertising are "finding the rate they can charge is going down," Mr. Ricart said.

Yahoo said in April it had 700 advertisers, up from 550 at the end of 1996. It had been getting about \$0.02 to \$0.06 per advertisement viewing, with slightly higher rates for Yahoo services aimed at specialty markets.

Targeted advertising, which focuses on a set group of customers instead of randomly placed Cyberspace promotions, could be the way to go, Mr. Ricart said.

This form of advertising "could be a means for financing the Internet," he said.

Novell itself has boosted its Internet focus and makes web servers.

Mr. Ricart's speech at the end of the three-day Internet conference that drew over 1,000 participants from 120 countries also outlined nine other challenges the 25-year-old Internet faces.

Among these are governments feeling threatened, difficulty in finding people and companies, an ageing design for Internet, security, and inefficient bandwidth use, Mr. Ricart said.

Earlier in the week, the Internet society held panel discussions on electronic commerce, and heard Ira Magaziner, special adviser to U.S. President Bill Clinton, outline a forthcoming report on global Cyberspace commerce.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHEFT
DEEGH
RESHOK
INTYCE

Answer here: HE

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TOW TRUCK OPERATOR IN CHURCH?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DAILY ELOPE STANZA TREATY
Answer: What the burglar looked for when he bought a home — A REAL STEAL

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TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179															
ORGANISED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (28/06/1997 - 02/07/1997)															
WEEKLY REPORT															
															
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES EXECUTED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS	
HIGH	LOW														
257,000	252,000	ARAB BANK	12.1	1.52	50	6860	1765470	257.00	264.50	252.00	263.50	+6.50	257.357	156	
2,150	2,010	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	153	128311	269166	2.13	2.11	2.07	2.10	-	2.098	306	
5,400	5,300	CALIB AMMAN BANK	11.8	2.63	7	4170	23558	5.60	5.72	5.45	5.70	+0.10	5.649	042	
3,540	3,100	BANK OF JORDAN	6.9	0.00	26	8444	27807	3.42	3.35	3.22	3.30	-0.12	3.293	080	
2,900	2,900	JED. BANK JED. BK.	61.7	0.00	30	35550	14490	9.6	9.6	9.3	9.4	-0.02	9.32	156	
2,280	2,230	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.4	7.48	11	54912	128466	2.26	2.28	2.25	2.26	-	2.250	092	
5,000	4,900	THE HOUSING BK.	14.9	3.88	102	176332	87480	4.91	5.10	4.87	5.00	+0.09	4.940	705	
4,180	2,940	JOR. KUNAYT BANK	11.5	0.00	58	534300	2127185	4.18	4.18	3.25	3.25	-0.09	3.980	534	
3,700	3,630	JOR. GULF BANK	5.2	8.05	35	41300	36127	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.7	-0.02	8.75	207	
3,700	3,630	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	25.4	3.17	71	35712	122870	3.64	3.79	3.58	3.78	+0.12	3.721	243	
1,250	1,110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	103.5	0.00	6	2350	1588	1.19	1.19	1.15	1.18	-0.01	1.175	012	
3,250	3,080	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	20.1	0.00	10	162558	511988	3.18	3.15	3.13	3.13	-0.05	3.150	1626	
1,200	1,040	BILIT. AL-HAL (BILITRA)	-7	12.93	14	3401	3873	1.37	1.16	1.12	1.16	-0.01	1.139	170	
1,110	1,050	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	-	0.00	6	1778	1931	1.05	1.03	1.03	1.03	-0.02	1.030	018	
BANKS SECTOR 503 1675163 7039803 INDEX NUMBER: 201.15 CHANGE: +1.247															
2,200	2,150	GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	13.2	7.58	2	540	1232	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	-	2.200	047	
4,000	4,000	TEBERALEN INSUR.	10.5	5.19	3	50220	193337	4.00	3.85	3.80	3.85	-0.15	3.850	472	
1,790	1,700	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.7	12.05	4	1300	2159	1.70	1.67	1.66	1.66	-0.04	1.661	059	
1,940	1,940	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.6	4.55	4	550	1148	1.94	2.20	2.04	2.20	+0.26	2.087	028	
2,450	2,210	JORDAN GULF INSUR.	-	0.00	9	3414	6854	2.21	2.21	1.99	2.21	-	2.008	303	
5,500	5,500	AMSTER. AL-ARAB	13.7	0.00	4	1098	6321	5.50	5.78	5.78	5.78	-0.28	5.757	110	
INSURANCE SECTOR 26 57142 211051 INDEX NUMBER: 114.17 CHANGE: +1.397															
1,690	1,640	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.1	5.99	58	30891	50911	1.67	1.67	1.63	1.67	-	1.648	204	
1,400	1,350	JED. ELECTRICITY	8.7	8.23	5	1300	1794	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	-	1.380	043	
2,650	2,650	BILIT. AL-HAL	12.9	6.12	1	500	1275	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.55	-0.10	2.550	029	
5,790	5,220	ARAB INTEL. NOVELS	16.0	3.85	6	1350	7170	5.22	5.20	5.00	5.20	-0.02	5.164	015	
1,350	1,250	BILIT. AL-HAL	12.1	6.90	1	100	87	1.25	1.34	1.23	1.34	+0.08	1.205	263	
1,870	1,840	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.1	6.90	1	100	87	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.87	-	1.870	002	
520	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25.7	0.00	10	10301	5141	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.0	-0.01	4.99	303	
6,000	3,900	AD-DUSTOUR	25.4	3.38	1	200	1250	6.00	6.25	6.25	6.25	-0.25	6.250	011	
1,300	1,210	JED. EAST NOVELS	19.0	0.00	13	2850	3462	1.30	1.41	1.25	1.25	-0.09	1.295	554	
2,380	2,090	ARAB PAPER CO.	16.0	0.00	15	12850	38240	2.38	3.02	2.80	2.91	-0.07	2.976	127	
1,090	1,060	KASBA EDUCATION	-	0.00	23	20550	19418	97	97	94	94	-0.03	947	456	
1,720	1,650	UNIFIED CO.	8.1	6.43	27	18550	31394	1.71	1.71	1.67	1.71	-	1.692	371	
680	640	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	6	970	667	6.8	7.1	6.8	6.8	-	6.88	019	
SERVICES SECTOR 291 242549 346445 INDEX NUMBER: 108.67 CHANGE: +0.527															
1,030	1,030	ATTACHEE	-	0.00	6	10290	10574	1.03	1.03	1.00	1.03	-	1.028	368	
4,170	4,000	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.4	2.70	201	334631	1369494	4.07	4.12	4.04	4.07	-	4.093	554	
4,000	3,800	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.1	2.50	40	112051	444620	3.90	4.00	3.94	4.00	-0.10	3.968	755	
4,590	4,590	ARAB FOSPHAT CO.	15.5	3.03	21	14550	57134	4.59	6.70	6.52	6.55	-0.09	6.476	018	
10,010	9,500	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.4	9.12	32	3604	35451	9.52	9.90	9.70	9.75	-0.17	9.837	056	
6,100	6,010	JORDAN TANNING	7.2	5.08	7	428	2531	6.10	5.95	5.90	5.90	-0.20	5.914	043	
1,270	1,240	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	10.8	8.00	4	5540	7175	1.27	1.30	1.25	1.25	-0.02	1.295	554	
2,000	1,920	INDUSTRIAL CON. AGR.	-	0.00	8	2150	4170	1.93	1.92	1.88	1.88	-0.05	1.904	044	
6,500	6,400	JOR. WESTERN HILLS	11.0	4.09	6	1400	8928	6.40	6.50	6.30	6.30	-0.10	6.377	035	
3,230	3,770	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.0	4.39	150	199451	776747	3.85	4.01	3.80	4.01	-0.16	3.894	234	
6,800	6,700	JOR. CEMARIC IND.	6.7	3.85	8	5125	33546	6.70	6.70	6.50	6.50	-0.20	6.500	045	
2,320	2,300	JORDAN DAIRY	8.0	10.36	2	420	990	2.32	2.36	2.36	2.36	-0.04	2.357	024	
1,400	1,370	JOR. PIPES MANUFACT.	17.0	5.84	2	750	1028	1.38	1.37	1.37	1.37	-0.01	1.371	023	
2,750	2,750	JOR. PAPER CARBON.	15.2	0.00	1	350	545	2.75	2.70	2.70	2.70	-0.05	2.700	012	
1,180	1,170	RAFIA INDUSTRIES	-	0.00	2	450	509	1.18	1.13	1.13	1.13	-0.05	1.131	045	
5,650	5,250	DAR ALDINA DV. INV.	13.4	4.59	36	21557	119469	5.61	5.64	5.45	5.45	-0.16	5.542	359	
3,060	2,760	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.3	9.23	9	6284	17043	2.76	2.74	2.71	2.71	-0.05	2.732	105	
510	470	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	55	48400	22386	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	-0.01	4.63	147	
1,050	1,030	ARAB PAPER CON. IND.	31.8	0.00	1	250	260	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	-	1.040	007	
1,050	1,030	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	3	1050	1035	1.03	1.00	0.98	0.98	-0.05	0.986	026	
550	530	NATIONAL IND.	-	0.00	20	14300	7519	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.2	-0.02	5.26	238	
1,550	1,500	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	43	35980	20619	1.59	1.59	1.57	1.58	-0.01	1.575	090	
610	580	JOR. ROCHWOOD INDUS.	-	0.00	6	12800	7205	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.7	-0.04	5.63	427	
1,900	1,900	UTIC-CEM. IND.	16.2	5.56	3	225	405	1.90	1.80	1.80	1.80	-0.10	1.800	015	
4,190	4,190	ALADON CO.	25.8	2.60	4	1050	4693	4.19	4.61	4.38	4.61	-0.42	4.407	105	
2,700	2,550	KAZ. CEMENT WARE. MFAC	40.1	0.00	5	1950	4875	2.55	2.50	2.50	2.50	-0.02	2.500	039	
600	550	JOR. SULFO-CEM.	-	0.00	32	30300	17342	5.5	5.59	5.56	5.59	-	5.572	073	
1,440	1,390	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	10.6	4.96	40	12700	17515	1.40	1.41	1.37	1.41	-0.01	1.379	054	
1,560	1,560	KAMMER INDUST.	9.5	0.00	1	100	101	1.06	1.01	1.01	1.01	-0.05	1.010	005	
1,430	1,280	UNIV. ROM. INDUS.	482.3	0.00	20	138	89250	109559	1.28	1.29	1.20	1.27	-0.01	1.228	1785
1,140	1,110	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	14.8	3.90	37	18319	20190	1.13	1.13	1.09	1.10	-0.03	1.102	229	
1,600	1,450	KAZ. CHEMIE	14.0	4.73	18	9928	13839	1.45	1.48	1.45	1.48	-0.03	1.456	132	
910	840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	26	20553	13338	85	86	85	86	-0.01	862	257	
570	540	ARAB FOOD & HED.	0.0	0.00	20	5356	9926	5.35	5.5	5.4	5.5	-0.01	5.46	153	
1,160	1,130	UNIV. ROM. INDUS.	46.1	0.00	2	100	1200	1.16	1.25	1.24	1.24	-0.01	1.240	010	
260	220	JOR. INDUS. PETROL. CHEM.	6.0	0.00	82	74586	81376	1.13	1.13	1.08	1.10	-0.03	1.091	748	
500	460	KAZ. TEXTILE	-	0.00	6	1550	1351	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	-0.02	0.772	034	
640	570	ARAB TEXT. INDUS.	39.5	0.00	1	1000	500	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.8	-0.02	5.850	010	
750	730	JORDAN STEEL	32.5	6.78	75	40060	29391	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	-	7.25	287	
340	300	ARAB TOWARD 75%	-	0.00	1	11382	7289	90	90	89	89	-0.01	89.0	326	
590	570	RAZI PHARM. 85%	-	0.00	20	13995	5778	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	-0.02	5.613	440	
420	370	INDUS. ENG.	22.8	0.00	42	53295	19652	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	-0.01	3.69	761	
570	570	INDUS. CHEM.	20.5	0.00	2	700	848	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	-0.01	7.813	018	
680	640	KAZ. POLYMER	-	0.00	5	228	62	27	26	26	26	-0.01	26.1	010	
840	810	KAZ. ALUMINUM. 75%	109.9	0.00	55	58512	31900	81	81	79	79	-0.02	80.5	488	
680	650	KID. EAST COMPLEX	7.9	15.63	50	144550	94799	65	66	64	64	-0.01	65.6	657	
650	540	KAZ. POLY. ENG. MANICO	-	0.00	159	277640	159192	60	60	57	57	-0.03	57.5	923	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR 1103 1101603 3292548 INDEX NUMBER: 127.75 CHANGE: -0.457															
GRAND TOTAL 2003 3074657 10889847 INDEX NUMBER: 161.65 CHANGE: +0.432															
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES EXECUTED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS	
HIGH	LOW														
400	350	CENTRAL CH. STORAGE	-	0.00	8	2277	843	38	38	37	37	-0.01	37.0	069	
510	460	JOR. TRADE FAC.	12.3	0.00	16	10100	4558	46	46	44	46	-	45.1	246	
540	480	ARAB PET. INDUST.	-	0.00	45	92782	44134	48	48	46	48	-0.02	47.8	054	
690	670	UNION INV. 50%	-	0.00	18	18358	2779	67	67	66	67	-	67.0	074	
1,200	1,100	ARAFA FOR INVESTMENT	45.5	0.00	6	30									

Hingis must mend grasscourt strategy; Novotna confident

LONDON (Agencies) — Martina Hingis hopes she will one day learn to love Wimbledon like her namesake and nine times champion Martina Navratilova, but admits she must first mend the holes in her grasscourt strategy.

Jana Novotna, one of the most talented players never to win Wimbledon, has promised that whatever the result there will be no tears this time when she faces world No. 1 Hingis for the women's singles crown at the All England Club on Saturday.

Hingis, who has virtually rewritten the record books at every major Grand Slam event over the past 12 months, will be making her third consecutive appearance in a 'major' final.

The 16-year-old top seed has lost only one singles match this year, to Iva Majoli in last month's French Open final, and has not dropped a set in her six matches here, but admits to an aversion for the faster grass surface.

"I hate this court, I hate grass, because you have to think differently on this surface," said Hingis after beating Russian prodigy Anna Kournikova in Thursday's semifinal.

Hingis's sensational rise to the top in world tennis at such a young age has fuelled speculation she has the potential to challenge Navratilova's Wimbledon record.

"I'm a little different player than she is," said Hingis, who was named after Navratilova by her mother Melanie who is also her coach. "I mean, she just must have loved this tennis court here, especially the Centre Court."

"She just loved the Wimbledon tournament. Hopefully I will love it one day too."

Hingis, who replaced Steffi Graf as the world number one in March, said she found it difficult to play the aggressive role required of the faster surface, adding it was a mental problem.

The Czech-born Swiss, who became the youngest Grand Slam champion this century by winning the Australian Open in January, has already etched



Martina Hingis

her name in the Wimbledon record books as the youngest female singles finalist in the Open era.

Graf was the previous youngest finalist, when as an 18-year-old she lost to Navratilova in 1987. Hingis has the chance to wipe the German's name from the 'youngest ever' Wimbledon record books completely if she wins, bettering her singles record as a 19-year-old champion in 1998.

Novotna, 12 years Hingis's senior, has improved with every match and blasted her way past Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the semifinals with a ruthless display of serve and volley tennis.

Novotna won the hearts of Wimbledon fans after sobbing on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder following her loss to Steffi Graf in the 1993 final when she had



Jana Novotna

Pen pictures of the women's singles finalists at Wimbledon

Martina Hingis v Jana Novotna
Head-to-head: 3-2 Hingis

• Martina Hingis (Switzerland) — WTA ranking 1.
Wimbledon seeding 1.
• Age 16.
• Height 1.67 m.
• Weight 52 kg.
• Grand Slam victories: Australian Open (1997).
• Path to the final: Anne Kremer (Luxembourg) 6-4 6-4, Olga Barabanshikova (Belarus) 6-2 6-2, Nicole Pietrangeli (U.S.) 6-1 6-3, Sabine Appelmans (Belgium) 6-1 6-3, Denisa Chladkova (Czech Republic) 6-3 6-2, Anna Kournikova (Russia) 6-3 6-2.
• Became the youngest Grand Slam champion in the Open era when she won the Australian Open in January.
• Took over as world No. 1 from Steffi Graf in March.
• Has not dropped a set in the tournament. Last year became youngest-ever Wimbledon champion when she won the women's doubles with Helena Sukova.

• Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) — WTA ranking 4.
Seeding 3.
• Age 28.
• Height 1.75 m.
• Weight 63 kg.
• Grand Slam victories: none.
• Path to the final: Wiltrud Probst (Germany) 6-4 4-6 6-0, Elena Likhovtseva (Russia) 6-1 4-6 6-4, Gala Leon Garcia (Spain) 6-4 6-2, Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.) 5-7 6-4 7-5, Yayuk Basuki (Indonesia) 6-3 6-3, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-4 6-2.
• Runner-up here in 1993, she beat Monica Seles in Madrid Open final in May and reached the rain-out final of the warm-up tournament in Eastbourne.

been within reach of victory.

"In 1993 I was still trying to prove, not only to myself but to everyone else, that I was a good player. But because I was trying so hard, I was never able to play my best tennis."

Novotna's outlook and values began to change a couple of years ago when her father was taken ill.

Although he recovered, he has recently been unwell again and is currently undergoing treatment in a Czech hospital.

"It has made me think. What is tennis compared to health?" she asked, adding: "And it has helped me find a happy medium between enjoying life and enjoying my tennis career."

"These days I am more relaxed and consequently I am playing better tennis."

"It's sad that my parents can't be here this year — but they have been watching my matches on television at the hospital and I know that my wins have cheered them up."

And against Hingis — the 16-year-old who has been rewriting the record books all year by becoming the youngest-ever world number-one and winning all but one of her 44 tour matches — Novotna thinks she has a good chance.

The third-seeded Czech, who will move up to a career-high second spot in the new WTA rankings on Monday, has won two of her five matches against the Swiss player and this will be their first encounter on grass — Novotna's favourite surface.

Sampras, Pioline advance to final

LONDON (Agencies) — World No. 1 and three-time champion Pete Sampras celebrated American independence day in style on Friday by reaching the Wimbledon singles final after gunning down Australian Todd Woodbridge in straight sets.

The 25-year-old American, who won here in 1993, 1994 and 1995, defeated half of the world's top doubles team 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) in 1hr 44mins.

Later in the day, Cedric

Pioline of France overcame 1991 champion German Michael Stich 6-7, 6-2, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 to advance to his first Wimbledon final following a rain-delayed men's semifinal.

Woodbridge, ranked 37th, was so outplayed at the start of the match he looked as though he needed his regular partner Mark Woodforde alongside him to keep the ball in play.

Such was Sampras' devastating form.

"Maybe that would have helped cover some of the

holes in my game," said Woodbridge, who added: "There were winners flying all over the place."

"Today I played one of the greatest players in the world — playing great tennis — and I think I have a chance of winning the title."

Sampras, who won the

title in 1993, 1994 and 1995, said: "I'm very motivated and ready to play. I'd rather be in the final at Wimbledon than anywhere else."

Champion Becker bids farewell

LONDON (Agencies) — Boris Becker left a gaping hole at the summit of men's tennis on Thursday by choosing his favourite Wimbledon stage to announce his retirement from top-level competition.

The three-times singles champion announced that he had played his last Wimbledon after being beaten by Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals of the men's singles.

The 29-year-old German, who won the title here in 1985, 1986 and 1989 and was a finalist 1988, 1990, 1991, 1995, said he would play a few more tournaments but he would not be playing any more grand slam events after 1997.

Becker, who dived into Wimbledon history by winning the men's singles title as a 17-year-old in 1985, confirmed he had played his final match at the All England Club and will not compete in any more grand slam tournaments after this year.

He has yet to decide whether he will compete in this year's U.S. Open, but after that will restrict himself to smaller tournaments and the Davis Cup.

Becker's illustrious career has brought him six Grand Slam titles and respect far beyond his native Germany, but he will be 30 in November and has decided that a seventh major title is now beyond him.

"I'm the type of guy who likes to go into a Grand Slam tournament with a chance of winning it and I don't feel I have what it takes to go all the way any more," he said.



Germany's Boris Becker waves to the crowd following his defeat by top seed Pete Sampras of the U.S. at the Wimbledon tennis championships. Becker said he told Sampras immediately after the game that this was his final appearance on Centre Court (Reuters photo)

"I feel very relieved. I feel I have come to the end of the road with my head held high. I always like to go out on top. Right now I feel I'm on top of the mountain. I can only go down."

Becker, who also won two Australian Open titles and the U.S. Open in 1990, has been struggling for much of the past year with wrist problems and his world ranking has slipped to 18.

But images of the red-haired, powerful youth from Leimen near Frankfurt remain part of Wimbledon

folklore and only Andre Agassi of the current overseas players can boast such enduring appeal amongst the fans.

"I've been here so many times and under difficult circumstances, but I was always made to feel one of them," said Becker, who has played in the last 14 consecutive Wimbledon championships. "Wimbledon means more than just winning for me."

Sampras was as surprised as anyone when Becker approached him at the net at the end of the match and

told him his secret, but was quick to provide a heartfelt tribute to one of his great rivals.

"It's a bit of a sombre feeling, but I feel honoured in a way that I was his last match. I thought he was a class act on and off the court. There aren't too many guys out there who have that presence and awe that Boris has."

"Wimbledon and Boris went together. This is where he made his mark. If he'd played here next year I'm sure he could have done well. He's one of the best players I've ever played."

It was ironic that Becker's bombshell should land on the day compatriot Michael Stich, who has announced he will be retiring in September, ensured there would be a German presence in the last four.

But Becker insisted his decision was "something I've thought about for a long time."

"Obviously with my injury last year I had strong doubts of ever coming back... I always wanted it to be me who makes the decision, not my body or something else."

With 49 singles titles and 15 doubles titles to his credit, Becker has lasted longer than either he or the ever-attentive German press often predicted.

"Those first couple of years after I won Wimbledon for the first time, so many things happened to me professionally and in my private life that I didn't think I could last," he said 18 months ago.

"I didn't think the desire for tennis could be greater than the loss of privacy."

"I had my years when tennis was not my main priority, but in the back of my mind I never gave up."

His wife Barbara and three-year-old son Noah have increasingly given Becker a more fulfilling life away from tennis, which has absorbed him since he gave up soccer and picked up a racket seriously at the age of 12.

There are still many who feel he is going too soon. "He's one of the few players on the tour who still has a presence, who appears to control the show when he's out there," said Australian Todd Woodbridge.

Yet those who know him will recognise his decision as typical of an intelligent man who has always refused to take the easy, automatic option.

"It seems 20-25 years ago that I first won Wimbledon," he said in early 1995.

"The amount of time I have to spend working on my profession is almost double what it used to be... I'm having to work more to keep up with the teenagers."

Unless he changes his mind, the younger generation seem to have finally worn him down.



Challenging and Rewarding Professional Opportunity Head, Information Technology Department Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company Limited

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company Limited is launching a major project to upgrade its computing facilities. The company is seeking a highly qualified, experienced and motivated professional to head its IT department. Immediate responsibilities of the IT department head include leading a team of professionals in interacting with and supervising the contractor in the upgrade project. The contract involves acquiring state of the art hardware, networking, communication, and business application software. The contractor according to internationally acceptable standards will develop part of the application software. The contractor will implement an internationally recognised packaged solution for the rest of the business applications. Computing in the company is moving towards the client/server model. Relevant experience, excellent spoken and written English, and a university degree in computer science or engineering are necessary. Attractive salary and benefits will be offered to successful applicants.

To apply, candidates should fill relevant forms available from the Personnel Department, Jabal Amman, First Circle, Mutanabee Street (P.O. Box 1079, Amman - 11118). Please attach a complete up-to-date resume of work experience, personal data, salary history, including copies of academic and technical qualifications. Last date to apply is July 15, 1997.

Chairman of the Board
Abdel Majeed Shuman



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	Departure	Toronto	At 22:05
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GONE WITH THE WIND

Show: 8:30 p.m. only

ELISA

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA

Jean Claude Van Damme ... in

MAXIMUM RISK

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00,
6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD

CONCORD "1"

Tom Cruise...in

JERRY MAGUIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CONCORD "2"

Michael Jordan...in

SPACEJAM

Shows: 3:30, 6:00

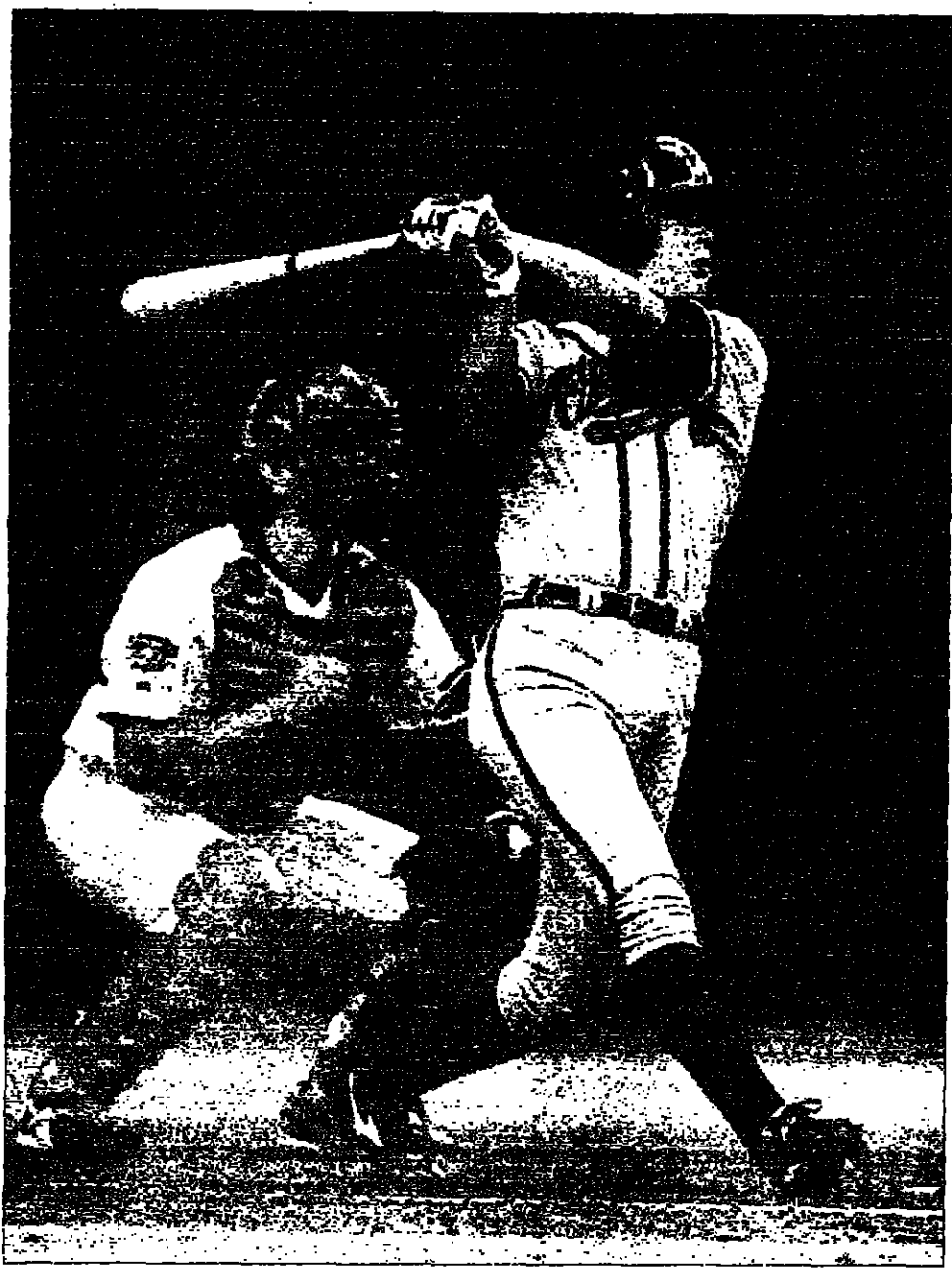
Mahil & Hisham's Theatre
TEL: 625155

The satirical play
AMN AI AI YA HO

performance starts at 8:30 p.m.

The theatre is closed every Tuesday.

For reservations call 625155



Atlanta Braves' Chipper Jones follows through on a two-run double during fourth inning action against the Montreal Expos at Olympic Stadium in Montreal. The Braves went on to score nine runs in the inning. Expos catcher Darrin Fletcher looks on (Reuters photo)

Will Clark three-run homer helps Rangers beat Rockies

ARLINGTON (R) — The wind took one away from Will Clark but he got another chance, and this time made sure with a three-run homer as the Texas Rangers beat the Colorado Rockies 8-3 Thursday to sweep their two-game series.

Mark McLemore led off the sixth with a single off Rockies starter Kevin Ritz, moved to third on a double by Ivan Rodriguez and scored on a sacrifice fly by Rusty Greer to tie the score 1-1. Juan Gonzalez singled Rodriguez to third and Clark sent a 2-0 pitch over the center-field fence for his eighth homer and first since May 30.

"I got a hold of one to right but the wind knocked that one down," said Clark about a flyout in the fourth inning.

"Fortunately the guys gave me another chance. It was a 2-0 sinker over the plate and I got it out to center."

"We're swinging the bats well right now and I think that has a lot to do with being at home."

Darren Oliver (5-9) allowed three runs and four hits over 8 1/3 innings as Texas won consecutive games for the first time since mid-June.

Ritz (6-8) gave up four runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings as the Rockies suffered their third straight loss. Colorado hit just .131 (8-for-61) in the two losses to Texas.

Vinny Castilla hit his 21st homer for Colorado, a two-run shot in the ninth.

In San Francisco, J.T. Snow hit a pair of solo homers and Doug Creek won his first Major-League start as the Giants held off the Oakland Athletics 6-4, gaining a split of their two-game interleague series.

Snow led off the fourth against starter Brad Rigby (0-2) with 11th homer of the season, giving San Francisco a 3-1 lead. Snow's second homer of the game, off reliever Carlos Reyes in the fifth, made it 6-2.

Creek (1-0), making his first appearance of the season, allowed four runs and four hits in 6 2/3 innings with five walks and a career-high seven strikeouts.

"I've never gotten a standing ovation, especially by that many people," Creek said.

Julian Tavarez got the final out of the seventh and

Doug Henry worked a scoreless eighth before Rod Beck pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his National League-leading 27th save.

In San Diego, Steve Finley homered twice and drove in five runs and Greg Vaughn, rumored to be going to the Yankees in a trade, hit a two-run pinch homer to snap a sixth-inning tie as the Padres blew a seven-run lead but recovered for a 10-8 slugfest victory over the Seattle Mariners.

John Flaherty also homered for San Diego while Joey Cora, Edgar Martinez and Jay Buhner hit roundtrippers for Seattle.

In Anaheim, Hideo Nomo

allowed just three singles over six scoreless innings and Mike Piazza drove in a pair of runs as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the angels 8-2 to complete a season sweep of their free-way series.

The Dodgers took both games in Los Angeles last month and completed the two-game sweep in Anaheim by banging out 11 hits against four Angels pitchers.

Nomo (8-7) struggled with his control, walking five and striking out six in winning for just the third time in his last nine starts.

Piazza extended his hitting streak to 10 games and is batting .461 (18-for-39).

Pacers sign 1st round pick Austin Croshere

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — The Indiana Pacers Thursday announced the signing of their first-round draft pick, forward Austin Croshere, who was the 12th overall selection in the 1997 NBA draft.

The former Providence star is the highest pick from last week's draft to come to terms with the NBA team that selected him. Ed Gray, the 22nd overall pick, signed with the Atlanta Hawks last Friday.

Croshere averaged 17.9 points per game this past season with the friars and boosted his numbers to 22.8 points and 5.8 rebounds in the NCAA tournament.

Croshere, who was coveted by new Pacers head coach Larry Bird, helped Providence advance to the regional finals before losing to eventual champions Arizona.

The Pacers hired the legendary Bird, an Indiana native and former superstar with the Boston Celtics, as their coach in May after Larry Bird left to coach the Philadelphia 76ers.

Juventus still have transfer market know-how

ROME (R) — When it comes to playing the transfer market Juventus, the "old lady" of Italian soccer, always seems to have a trick up her sleeve.

Wednesday's sale of Christian Vieri to Atletico Madrid reaped the Turin club a tidy profit of 27 billion lire (\$15.9 million) in a single year.

Atletico paid 34 billion lire (\$20 million) for the 23-year-old striker, making him the world's third most expensive player after Ronaldo, who signed for Internazionale last month, and England forward Alan Shearer.

In contrast, Juve paid just seven billion lire (\$4.1 million) to bring Vieri from Atalanta a season ago when he was still an uncapped centre forward with an unproven track record in Serie A.

After making only seven league appearances in two seasons at Turin, Vieri moved down to Serie B side Pisa in 1992.

Then followed two unsettled seasons playing for Ravenna and later Venice, both in Serie B, before moving back up to Atalanta for the 1995-96 season.

Since signing for Juventus Vieri earned a first international cap in March this year and played three more times for Italy before the end of the season, confirming the Turin club's ability to find gold where others see only stones.

It was not the first time the Italian champions have secured what appears to be an exceptional deal in the cut-and-thrust world of the international soccer market.

Vieri was bought last season to replace striker Fabrizio Ravanelli whom Juventus had sold to English premier league side Middlesbrough for \$11 million — a steep figure which raised a few eyebrows in England.

Although he sparkled intermittently, the 27-year-old Ravanelli could not save Middlesbrough from relegation and was dropped from the national squad for a recent tournament in France in favour of Vieri and fellow Juve striker Alessandro Del Piero.

Only a year before Juventus had sold captain Roberto Baggio to Milan after winning the "scudetto" (shield) in the 1994-5 season.

Since then Baggio's career hit the doldrums, losing both his national place and a regular first team spot at Milan which he is leaving next season.

The decision to sell Vieri on Wednesday showed that Juventus still believe they can be successful while selling

their top players — proved by winning the Italian league this season — and pocket a tidy sum in the process.

Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi, who announced the deal after weeks of denials over the move, said on Thursday the change of position on Vieri's future had been agreed by all parties.

"It was a unanimous decision," Moggi said. "Of course, since earlier statements some reflections were made which led to what happened."

He did not refer to the size of Atletico's offer as the deciding factor but commentators said the latest transfer showed Juventus were still one of the most shrewd clubs on the market.

Moggi had said Juventus would not sell Vieri nor Del Piero this season and instead concentrate on constructing a young side of which the two strikers were an integral part. "Others left Juventus because they were a certain age, they didn't guarantee a future, they couldn't keep up with our ambitions," Moggi said earlier this year.

But comments by vice-president Roberto Betegga that every player had his price, which caused some embarrassment for Moggi, launched speculation that Juventus would sell Vieri if the package was right.

When Moggi announced the transfer on Wednesday, the most expensive ever for a player leaving the Serie A, he insisted Juventus had not wanted to sell Vieri but it had been his decision to leave.

Italian newspapers speculated over the real reasons on Thursday after Juventus seemed to deny they had sold Vieri against their will.

"Whatever it is, one thing is clear: Juventus sold Vieri because in the end it thinks it can be competitive without him," Gazzetta Dello Sport said.

"Or maybe because of the problem of competition with other national strikers (within the team) or because of the obvious economic reasons."

Juventus signed Serie A top scorer Filippo Inzaghi from Atalanta last month. If Vieri had stayed there would have been competition for places up front with Inzaghi and Del Piero, a key figure in the club's rebirth over the past three seasons.

The club also announced on Wednesday they had signed Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca from Roma which means Juve's formidable first-choice forward line for next season appears complete even without Vieri.

Youth World Cup

Uruguay may ruin Argentina's party in today's final

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AFP) — Uruguay have the advantage of "home conditions" as they bid to win their first World Youth Football title against defending champions Argentina here on Saturday.

Uruguay, the only unbeaten team in the under-20 tournament, go into the all-South American final having played all their six matches so far at the same Shah Alam stadium.

Argentina, on the other hand, will be making their first appearance here after playing their league games at Kangar, the second round at Johor Baru and the quarter and semi-finals at Kuching.

"We've got used to this place," Uruguayan coach Victor Pua said as his team trained at the 80,000-seater stadium. "It's like a second home to us."

"Hopefully, the people who have watched us here over the last two weeks will come again and back us."

The Argentinians will, however, be pleased to get away from Kuching, where spectators backed Brazil against them in the quarter-finals and then rooted for Ireland in the semi.

"It doesn't matter where we play," said Argentina's coach Jose Pekerman. "To be champions, you have to play at any venue and against any opponents. We've had two days to get used to this new place."

Pekerman, who predicted his team will retain the title after the 2-0 quarter-final win over Brazil, is a well-known man now — with ample reason.

Uruguay have looked solid with five wins in six matches so far, while Argentina were branded the

"chameleon champions" by one newspaper for their inconsistent form.

They were beaten 4-3 by Australia in the league, were brilliant against England and Brazil, but struggled to down spirited Ireland 1-0 in the semi-finals.

"We could have played better against Ireland," Pekerman admitted. "I hope to rectify the problem before the final. Hopefully the shock will jolt the boys."

He brushed aside questions whether the players will get huge monetary rewards if they retain the title they won at Qatar two years ago.

"There will be some reward, but nothing special. We will be playing for pride and that is more important than anything else," he said. Revenge is also an incentive. Argentina were beaten

1-0 by Uruguay in their first match of the south American qualifiers earlier this year and held to a 1-1 draw in the second.

Uruguay's Pua was understandably upbeat of his team's chances in their first ever world youth final.

"We have nothing to fear Argentina," he said. "I have the utmost respect for them because they are a very strong side, but we know each other very well. Psychologically, there is nothing to scare us."

The ultimate winner will be South America's football future.

This will be the third successive world youth title for a country from the region — Brazil won in 1993 and Argentina in 1995.

South America have won five of the 10 titles contested since the tournament was launched in 1977. European countries won four times while erstwhile Soviet Union took the inaugural title.

Brazil, in 1983 and 1985, and Portugal in 1989 and 1991, are the only teams to have won two tournaments in a row.

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GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSH
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AA5 TA98 07632 410854
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1a Pass 1NT Pass
2c Pass 7
What do you bid now?
Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
A2 TA4 CAK62 4AKQJ43
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1a Dbl 2a Pass
4a 7
What action do you take?
Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AJ10R 075 0Q9542 4454
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1c Dbl Pass
What do you bid now?
Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AK105 CAKQ4875 OKS 4S
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1a Pass 2c Pass 7
What do you bid now?
Q. 5 - Both vulnerable as South you hold:
4S 083 CAQ108764 4A4
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
17 Pass 1A 7
What action do you take?
Q. 6 Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
AA5 0763 CAKQJ95 4A8
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1c Pass 1A 7
What action do you take?

undp
United Nations Development Programme
Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People
Sustainable Human Development

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PROJECT MANAGER
Tourism Development in the West Bank and Gaza
PAL/96/005

In the framework of its support programme for the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the UNDP/PAPP is launching phase II of its technical assistance project to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA). The incumbent will:

1. Supervise, manage and monitor the activities and administration of the project, and ensure proper implementation of all its components, namely: Tourism Planning and Development, Tourism Marketing, Institutional and Human Capacity Building, Tourism Awareness.
2. Coordinate the relationship between the MOTA, the UNDP/PAPP and other involved institutions.
3. Coordinate, supervise and assist the activities of short term consultants.
4. Review the activities of those public and private sector organizations involved either directly or indirectly with tourism, and recommend measures to improve the overall levels of coordination, cooperation in the sector.

The Project Manager should have a degree in Science or Arts in the fields of Tourism Development and Management, and 6 to 12 years of work experience in a related field. Work experience with local Palestinian institutions and understanding of the institutional set-up of the Palestinian Authority would be a strong advantage. The Project Manager should have good and proven management skills. Proficiency in using computer for word-processing, and fluency in Arabic and English are required. Interested candidates should send their CV to the following address:

UNDP/PAPP, 4A, Ya'Kobi St., P.O. Box: 51359, Jerusalem.
Fax: 972 2 6280089
Reference: Project Manager PAL/96/005
Deadline for submission: 10 July 1997

REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR LAN INSTALLATION

The "Water Quality Improvement and Conservation" Project of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation are seeking sources for the installation of a Local Area Network (LAN) for Ministry's main building in Shmeissani, Amman, Jordan. The LAN will include over 600 drops and will include cabling, hubs, equipment racks, switches and installation hardware. Contractors will be pre-qualified before the issue of a tender. Interested offerors should pick up the pre-qualification package from:

the WQIC Project Assistant, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Water and Irrigation Building in Shmeissani, beginning 12:00 O'clock on Saturday July 5, 1997. Closing date for picking up the pre-qualification package is 12:00 O'clock July 15, 1997. Instructions on completing the pre-qualification package will be issued with the package.

Job Vacancies

A major trade company located in Doha-Qatar, dealing with consumables, retail and whole sale, is seeking for employees with following qualifications :-

- University degree in related subjects.
- Very good command in speaking, reading and writing English.
- 3 years experience in marketing consumable items.
- Age 25 - 35.

Please send your C.V. along with education and experience certificates to following address :

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All applications will be treated confidently

